
THE
LITERARY MAGAZINE,
AND
BRITISH REVIEW,

For NOVEMBER, 1788.

LIFE OF SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

WITH AN ELEGANT HEAD.

SIR Isaac Newton, who may be justly styled the father of the modern philosophy, was descended of an ancient family, which had its origin at Newton, in Lancashire. Some of his ancestors removing thence, settled at Westby, in Lincolnshire; and, about the year 1370, they became possessed of the manor of Woolstrop, in the same county, where this sublime genius was born on Christmas-day, 1642. At an early age he lost his father, and, a few years after, his mother engaged in a second marriage; but it does not appear that on this account she was less solicitous about the education of her son. At the age of twelve he was put to the free school at Grantham, from which he was taken some years after, in order that he might be made acquainted with his own affairs, and be sooner able to manage them. Young Newton, however, shewed so little inclination for that kind of business, and directed his attention with so much assiduity to literary pursuits,

that his mother thought it would be most prudent to let him follow the bent of his own inclination. For this purpose she sent him back to Grantham; and at the age of eighteen he was removed to Cambridge, where he was admitted into Trinity College in 1660. The study of the mathematics seems to have been much cultivated at Cambridge about this period, and Newton soon gave striking proofs of his superior abilities in this line; for the Elements of Euclid being put into his hands, he run through them with such a surprising rapidity, that he made himself master of every proposition almost at sight. By only reading over the enunciation of the theorems, he was immediately able to comprehend and demonstrate them. After Euclid, he proceeded to the study of Descartes' Geometry, with Oughtred's Clavis, Kepler's Optics, and the works of Wallis. In these he made several improvements, and inserted them in marginal notes as he

went along, which was his usual method of studying. These remarks conducted him to the discovery of his method of infinite series, and of fluxions; by means of which he was able to find the quadrature of all sorts of curved lines, their centre of gravity, the solids formed by their revolutions, and the surfaces of these solids. The theory of this series was so general, that, in any proposed equation whatever expressing the nature of a curve, he could tell whether such a curve could be squared; and, if possible, could give its square, either in finite terms, or else by a continual approximation in an infinite series, and this in a very short space of time. Newton employed himself in these discoveries, without any ostentation, for some years. Dr. Barrow, who was then eminently distinguished for his abilities, was the only mathematician who saw him, and he even visited him but seldom.

In the year 1664 Newton took his first degree as bachelor of arts, and as he could not think of wasting all his time in abstracted speculations, he began to turn his thoughts to a subject of more immediate use. Descartes, in his *Optics*, embracing an opinion commonly received, that light was homogeneous, had, upon this principle, first discovered the laws of refraction, and shewn, that the art of bringing telescopes to perfection, depended on finding out a method of making glasses, in elliptic, parabolic, or hyperbolic figures. The most eminent mathematical geniuses were now employing their talents upon this subject, and considerable advances were made towards completing so useful an invention. Newton, therefore, on his return to college, in 1666, applied himself to the grinding of optic glass-

ses, of other figures than spherical, having as yet no suspicion that the nature of light was different from what Descartes supposed it to be; but not succeeding in his attempt, according to his wishes, he procured a glass prism, in order to try the celebrated phenomena of colors, discovered not long before by Grimaldi *. He was highly delighted at first, with viewing the vivid brightness of the colors produced by this experiment; but after some time considering them more attentively, and in a philosophical manner, with that accuracy and penetration which were natural to him, he was surprized to observe them in an oblong form, which, according to the received rule of refractions, ought to have been circular. This irregularity he at first thought might be merely accidental; his curiosity, however, was farther excited; he soon invented an infallible method of determining the question, and the result was his new theory of light and colors.

The theory alone of this discovery, unexpected and surprising as it was, did not satisfy Newton; he rather considered the proper use which might be made of it, for the farther improvement of telescopes, which was the original object of his researches. For this end, having now discovered that light was not homogeneous, but an heterogeneous mixture of differently refrangible rays, he computed the errors arising from this different refrangibility, and finding them to exceed some hundreds of times those occasioned by the circular figure of the glasses, he abandoned his glass works, and began to investigate the nature of reflectors. He was now convinced that optical instruments might be brought to very great perfection, provid-

* Grimaldi was a native of Bologna, and born in the year 1518. At the age of eighteen he entered into the society of the Jesuits, who consider him as one of the ablest philosophers ever educated among them. In concert with the famous Riccioli, he augmented with 305 stars the Catalogue of Kepler. This author is one of the first who perceived that colored rays had different degrees of refrangibility; and it appears that his treatise, *De Lumine et Coloribus Iridis*, furnished Newton with many useful hints. This celebrated man died in the year 1562, when about the age of forty-five.

ed a reflecting substance could be procured capable of as fine a polish as glass, of reflecting as much light as glass transmits, and provided also that some method could be discovered of giving it a parabolic form. In accomplishing these ends many difficulties occurred. The plague too, which had broke out in 1665, compelled him to leave Cambridge, and it was more than two years before he made any farther progress in these valuable discoveries.

Having retired to the country, at a distance from Cambridge, our illustrious philosopher was in some measure secluded from society, and from books; but he still found important objects on which to employ his active genius; and, in the midst of his solitude, he received that hint which gave rise to the system of the world, and which forms the principal subject of his Principia. Some apples falling from a tree, as he was sitting alone in his garden, as is said, first led his thoughts to the subject of gravity; and, reflecting on the power of that principle, he began to consider, that, as it is not found to be sensibly diminished, at the greatest distance to which we can rise from the centre of the earth, neither on the tops of the loftiest buildings, nor on the summits of the highest mountains, it appeared to him reasonable to conclude, that this power must extend much farther than is usually supposed. "Why not as far as the moon? And "if so," said he to himself, "her motion must be influenced by it, "and perhaps it retains her in her "orbit. However, though the power "of gravity be not sensibly weakened "in the little change of distance "which we can experience with respect to the centre of the earth; "yet it is very possible, that at the "distance of the moon the strength "of this power may be very different "from what it is here." To make an estimate what this diminution might be, he considered, that if the moon be retained in her orbit by the force of gravity, the primary planets must be carried round the sun by the like

power; and by comparing the periods of the planets with their distances from the sun, he found that if any power, such as gravity, retained them in their courses, its strength must decrease in the duplicate proportion of the increase of distance. This, he concluded, supposing them to move in perfect circles concentric with the sun, from which the orbits of the greater part of them do not much differ. Supposing, therefore, the power of gravity when extended to the moon to decrease in the same proportion, he computed whether that force would be sufficient to keep the moon in her orbit. In this computation, however, attempted in a common way, and without the assistance of books, he did not make the power of gravity, decreasing in a duplicate proportion to the distance, answerable to the power which retained the moon in her orbit; whence he concluded, that some other cause must be united with the action of gravity upon the moon. This, and some other incidents, made him give up any farther thoughts on this subject for some time.

On his return to Cambridge in 1667, he was chosen Fellow of his college; and, in the year following, admitted to the degree of Master of Arts.

About this time, Nicholas Mercator, a native of Holstein, published a very learned work upon geometry, under the title of *Logarithmotechnica*, in which he gave the quadrature of the hyperbola by an infinite series. The celebrated Dr. Barrow, then at Cambridge, where Newton, who was now about twenty-six years of age, resided, on perusing this book, recollected that he had seen the same discovery in the writings of that young gentleman, but on a more enlarged plan. Newton's modesty upon this occasion, was very remarkable. Though he might have claimed to himself the honor of so ingenious a discovery, he was contented with the treasure he had found, without regarding the glory; and in a letter, printed in the *Commercium Epistolicum*, he

observes, that he thought Mercator had entirely found out his secret, or that others would, before he was of a proper age for writing. His manuscript upon infinite series, was communicated to no one but to Mr. John Collins, Fellow of the Royal Society, and Lord Brunker; and this even was done through the influence of Dr. Barrow, who would not permit him to indulge his modesty so much as he desired. This manuscript, which was entitled, *A Method I formerly found out*, &c. was taken from Newton's study in 1669; and supposing this *formerly* to mean no more than three years, he must then have discovered this excellent method of series, when he was not quite twenty-four years of age. But what is still worthy of being remarked, this manuscript contained both the discovery and method of fluxions, or of those infinitely small quantities which occasioned so great a contest between Newton and Leibnitz, or rather between England and Germany.

In 1669, upon the resignation of Dr. Barrow, he was chosen Professor of mathematics in the university of Cambridge; about this period, in a letter which he wrote to a young gentleman, of the name of Aston, who was one of his friends, and then ready to set out on his travels, he gave the following rules for his conduct, which are so excellent, that they ought not to be passed over in silence. "When you enter into com-

"pany, be careful to observe the

"disposition of those among whom

"you are. Secondly, behave your-

"self in such an affable manner, that

"you may engage them to deliver

"their sentiments freely. Thirdly,

"never discourse by questions or

"doubts, you will gain little advan-

"tage by appearing either wiser or

"more ignorant than the rest of the

"company. Fourthly, Seldom dis-

"commend any thing, be it ever so

"bad, or do it with moderation, lest

"you may be reduced to the disag-

"reeable necessity of retracting what

"you have advanced. Commenda-

"tion seldom meets with opposition;
"or at least, is not so much resented
"as dispraise by men who think
"otherwise; you will insinuate your-
"self into peoples favor by nothing
"sooner than by seeming to approve
"and commend what they like; but
"beware to do it by a comparison.
"Fifthly, if you are affronted in a
"foreign country, it will be better
"to pass it over in silence, and with
"a jest, though with some dishonor,
"than to attempt revenge: for in the
"first case, your credit will not be the
"worse when you return to England,
"or come into other company, who
"have not heard of the dispute; but
"in the second, you may bear the
"marks of the quarrel while you
"live, if you survive at all."

The same year in which he was admitted to the Professor's chair, and in the two following, he read optical lectures in Latin, in the public schools of the university. He had not finished these lectures, when he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society, and having then brought his theory on light and colors to a great degree of perfection, he laid it before the Society, in order to have their opinion upon it, and it was afterwards published in their Transactions of February, 1672. Though great pains and labor had been bestowed in preparing this piece for the public eye, yet his doctrine was so new, and so totally subversive of that which was universally received; so nice a degree of accuracy and exactness were necessary in making the experiments upon which it was founded, and so subtle and penetrating was the reasoning upon these experiments, that it no sooner went abroad into the world, than it found opposers in all quarters wherever it appeared. On this account, our illustrious philosopher was unexpectedly led into various disputes, which gave him much uneasiness. He had spent eight years in repeating the experiments which ascertained the truth of his theory, and though he thought to oblige the world by unveiling one of the deepest secrets of nature,

nature, and though he had every reason to expect that his benefaction would be received with gratitude, the contrary seems to have been the case. For this reason, and foreseeing what would be the consequence, should he give the rest of his theory to the public, where he knew there must appear truths still more amazing, he laid aside his optical lectures, after he had carefully revised them, with a design to publish them. These disappointments, however vexatious, did not prevent him from going on with his reflecting telescope, that part of his optics which was most immediately useful. He therefore completed an instrument of this kind, with which, though it was only six inches in length, he saw distinctly Jupiter with his four moons, and the different phases of Venus. This instrument he sent to the Royal Society at their request, together with a description of it, which was published in their Transactions. There were inserted likewise in the two subsequent numbers, several curious observations relating to this new invention, communicated by him with a view to second the design of the Society, of inviting some skilful artists to attempt a farther improvement; as two particulars were still wanting, a proper composition for the metal, and a good polish.

In 1676, at the request of Mr. Leibnitz, he wrote two letters to be communicated to him, in which he explained his invention of infinite series, and pointed out how far he had improved it by his method of fluxions, which however he still concealed, by a transposition of the letters, that make up the two fundamental propositions, into an alphabetical order.

In the winter between 1676 and 1677, he investigated the grand proposition, that by a centripetal force acting reciprocally as the square of the distance, a planet must revolve in an ellipsis around the centre of force, placed in the lower focus of the ellipsis, and with a radius drawn to that centre, describe areas propor-

tionable to the times.

In the year 1680, he made several astronomical observations upon the comet which then appeared; and which, for a considerable time, he imagined not to be one and the same, but two different comets, contrary to the opinion of Mr. Flamsteed. While his thoughts were engaged on this subject, he received a letter from Mr. Hook, on the nature of the line described by a falling body, supposed to be moved circularly by the diurnal motion of the earth, and at the same time perpendicularly by the power of gravity; this led him to enquire what would be the real figure described by such a body, and to resume his former researches, respecting the moon. As Mr. Picart had not long before determined a degree of the earth by using his measures, and as it appeared that the moon was retained in her orbit, by the power of gravity alone, and consequently, that this power decreased in the duplicate proportion of the distance, as he had formerly conjectured, he found from this principle, that the figure described by a falling body, must be an ellipsis, of which the centre of the earth is one focus. Perceiving now, that the primary planets really moved in such orbits round the sun as Kepler suspected, he had the satisfaction of finding the result of his enquiries likely to answer some valuable purposes; he therefore drew up several propositions respecting the motion of the primary planets round the sun, which were communicated to the Royal Society, in 1683, and, with much reluctance on the part of the author, printed in 1687, under the title of *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*; that is to say, the Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy. This work at first did not meet with that reception which it deserved; as it was founded upon the most profound geometry, and as the author had greatly contracted his demonstrations, few at that time were able thoroughly to comprehend it. The most eminent mathematicians were

were even obliged to study it carefully before they could understand it; but when it was perfectly known, all the literati of Europe united in bestowing upon the author their suffrages of applause. It excited, says Mr. Fontenelle, universal admiration.*

In the midst of all his philosophical researches, when the privileges of the university were attacked by James the Second, Newton appeared among the most zealous defenders of them, and upon this occasion was appointed one of the delegates to the High Court of Commission, where he made such a rational and able defence, that his Majesty thought proper to drop the affair, and leave the university in the full enjoyment of their rights.

In 1688, he was chosen one of their members for the Convention Parliament, in which he retained his seat till its dissolution. Mr. Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, who sat for the first time in that Parliament, having been bred at the same college, and being well acquainted with Newton's abilities, when he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, procured for him from the King, in 1696, the office of Warden of the Mint, a place worth about twelve or fifteen hundred pounds per annum, which he held till his death, and for which he was well qualified, as appears by his tables of foreign coins, printed at the end of Dr. Arbuthnot's

work on Weights and Measures. On his promotion, he appointed Mr. Whiston his deputy in the mathematical chair at Cambridge, allowing him the full profits of the place, which he also procured for him in 1703.

The same year Newton was chosen President of the Royal Society, at the head of which he continued for twenty-five years; and he had been chosen Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, in 1699, upon the new regulation being made of admitting foreigners among that illustrious body.

Newton had long thought that a ray of light was composed of seven differently colored rays, as exhibited by a prism exposed to the sun, and he was desirous of pursuing his researches upon this subject. With this view, he endeavoured to separate these colored rays; or, to use an expression of the celebrated Fontenelle, "to dissect light." Having made a ray of light pass through a prism into a darkened chamber, he decomposed and divided it in such a manner, that he found it to be made up of seven different rays, tinged each of a particular and unchangeable color.—He remarked also, that each of these rays was refracted differently, or, as he himself expressed it, had different degrees of refrangibility. He afterwards measured these degrees, and

* Mr. Saverien, in his *Lives of the Modern Philosophers*, says, that the Emperor of China, having been made acquainted with this work, by some of the French missionaries, was so highly pleased with it, that he resolved to testify his respect for the author, by sending him a letter, which he wrote in the Chinese language, with the following inscription: *To Mr. Newton, Europe.* It is very certain that the Emperor Kang-hi, at that time upon the throne of China, was remarkably fond of mathematical pursuits. Father Bouvet, in his character of that monarch, which is to be found in a collection of small pieces respecting China, published by the celebrated Leibnitz, under the title of *Novissima Sinica Historiam nostri Temporis illustratura*, tells us, that he was not only acquainted with most of the mathematical and astronomical instruments then in use, but that he was so much master of the elements of Euclid, of which he had ordered a translation to be made into the Tartar language, that he could demonstrate any proposition immediately upon being shewn the figure. Father Bouvet adds, that the Emperor often said, that he had read Euclid more than twelve times from beginning to end. However, as we have never found the above circumstance, respecting his letter to Newton, mentioned in any other author, we very much doubt of its truth. Something of the same kind is told of the celebrated Boerhave, but the letter sent to the Dutch physician was from a mandarin.

found that they had the same proportion to one another as the seven notes of musick. These discoveries could not be known and demonstrated, but by exceedingly nice experiments; and several philosophers, with whom they did not succeed, took upon them to deny the truth of his theory. On account of these rash objections, Newton at first hesitated, whether he should publish his discoveries. He was afraid, that by giving them to the world, he should involve himself in tedious and disagreeable disputes. "I should reproach myself with my imprudence," says he, in a letter to one of his friends, "did I lose so substantial a thing as tranquillity, by pursuing a shadow?" However, on the solicitation of his friends, he determined to prepare his manuscript for the press, which he published in 1704, under the title of Optics; or a Treatise of the Reflections, Refractions, Inflections, and Colors of Light.

Upon the publication of this work, his doctrine respecting light and colors was every where decried and opposed. Mr. Marriote, an eminent French philosopher, could never succeed in making the experiments on which Newton had founded his system; he always observed that the rays of light had no fixed color, and consequently concluded, that their colors were not essential, as had been advanced in the Treatise on Optics. Several others tried the same experiments, and with no better success. It was, therefore, much doubted in France, whether Newton had proceeded properly in his operations. Cardinal Polignac, who entertained a great esteem for him, convinced of his superior merit and abilities, suspected that the French philosophers had committed some mistake in their process; on this account he sent to England for prisms, of the

same kind as those with which Newton had decomposed the rays of light; and having caused the experiments to be made in his own presence, had the satisfaction of seeing them answer according to his expectation. They were repeated afterwards with the same success, and the system of Newton was soon adopted by all the philosophers of Europe.

Newton's abilities and merit were now eminently conspicuous. Queen Ann conferred the honour of knighthood upon him, in 1705, and on the accession of George I. he was introduced to his Majesty, who received him with every mark of distinction. The same year also the parliament requested his opinion upon a new method of determining the longitude at sea, which had been proposed by Dutton and Whiston; but his remarks, and the reasons he assigned for his disapprobation of their plan, in a paper delivered to the committee, was so satisfactory, that the project was entirely abandoned.

In the year 1715, his antagonist, Mr. Leibnitz, with a view of making the world believe, that Sir Isaac had borrowed his method of fluxions from his differential method, proposed, by way of challenge to the whole English nation, the famous problem of the trajectories.* But what Leibnitz conceived to be a thing of great difficulty, Newton considered only as an amusement. He received this problem about five in the evening, as he was returning from the mint, and though he was much fatigued with the business of the day, he did not retire to rest till he had solved it.

Sir Isaac was now more frequently at Court than ever. The Princess of Wales, who possessed an excellent understanding, and had a great taste for philosophical enquiries, took much pleasure in his conversation, and she

* *Me arguerem imprudentiæ, quod umbram captando, catenus perdiderim quietem meam rem prius substantialem.*

† This problem was to find a curve which should cut at right angles, or in such a manner as to form equal angles, an infinity of other curves, all of the same kind.

was often heard to declare, that she thought herself happy in living at the same time with him, and in enjoying such opportunities of improvement. Having, some years before, or about this time, written a treatise upon ancient chronology, he communicated the plan of it to the Princess, who found it so new and ingenious, that she desired he would give her an abstract of the whole work. Sir Isaac was desirous that it might not be made public, but the Princess having promised that it should never go from her hands, he entrusted her with his manuscript. Notwithstanding this precaution, the Abbe Conti, a noble and learned Venetian, secretly found means to procure a copy of it, which he carried with him to France, and it was there translated and published, with some observations. Though our philosopher highly disapproved this conduct, he did not deny the work; but he thought it necessary to supply what was deficient in the manuscript, and to answer the observations which had been made upon it. He therefore published his additions and remarks, in the *Philosophical Transactions*, which were afterwards translated into French. The Abbe Conti and Father Souciet, however, attacked our author's chronological index; the celebrated Dr. Halley undertook to defend it; and, in order that the public might be enabled to judge of the dispute, Sir Isaac's friends, after his death, published the work in English, under the title of, *The Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms Amended*; to which is prefixed, a *Short Chronicle*, from the first memory of things in Europe, to the Conquest of Persia, by Alexander the Great.

The principal design of this work evidently is, by following with great sagacity some of the traces, however faint, of the ancient Greek astronomy, to discover what was the position of the equinoctial colures, with respect to the fixed stars, at the time of Chiron the Centaur. As it is now known that these stars have a motion in longitude, of one degree in seventy-

two years, were it once ascertained through what fixed stars the colures passed in the time of Chiron, by taking the distance of these stars from those through which the colures now pass, we might be able to determine the number of years elapsed since the age of Chiron. Chiron was one of those who went along with the Argonauts, in their famous expedition; this would, therefore, fix the epocha of it, and consequently that of the Trojan war—two great events, upon which all ancient chronology depends.

Though Newton had employed his whole life in the most abstruse and laborious researches, he enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health till he was fourscore years of age, which may be chiefly ascribed to his great temperance and moderation. He then began to be afflicted with a diabetes, which was exceedingly troublesome; but, by the help of a strict regimen, and other precautions, he procured great intervals of ease during the five remaining years of his life; he was not, however, free from some severe paroxysms, which often occasioned large drops of sweat to run down his face. In these circumstances he was never heard to utter the smallest complaint, nor to express the least impatience, and as soon as he found a moment's ease, he would talk and converse with his usual cheerfulness. On Saturday morning, March the 18th, 1726, he read the newspaper, and discoursed a long time with Dr. Mead, having then the perfect use of all his senses, but that night he entirely lost them all, and never recovering them afterwards, expired on the Monday following, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His body lay in state in the Jerusalem Chamber, and, on March the 28th, was conveyed to Westminster Abbey, the Lord Chancellor, the Dukes of Montrose and Roxburgh, and the Earls of Pembroke, Suffex, and Macclesfield, bearing up the pall. The corpse was interred at the entrance into the choir, on the left hand, where

a mo-

a monument was erected to his memory, with a Latin inscription.

After his death, several discourses upon the subject of antiquities, history, divinity, chemistry, and mathematics, were found among his papers; some of which were afterwards published. Among these were his Observations on the Prophecies of Daniel, and the Apocalypse of St. John, which were printed in 1733. This appears to be a very unfinished piece; but there are some things in it, which discover the hand of its great author.

This eminent philosopher, whose works are his best eulogium, was of a middling stature, but somewhat inclined to corpulency towards the latter part of his life. His countenance was pleasing and venerable. He never made use of spectacles; and, during his whole life, never lost but one tooth. Bishop Atterbury describes him as having something rather languid in his look and manner, than piercing and lively. In disposition he was mild and affable, and he seems to have carried humility and modesty to as great a length as it was possible for humanity. One day, when some of his friends had said some very handsome things of his extraordinary talents, he replied, in an easy and unaffected manner, that, for his own part, he was sensible, whatever he had done worth notice, was owing more to patience of thought, than to any uncommon sagacity with which he was endowed by nature. Dr. Pemberton observes, that his memory was much decayed in the last years of his life; but the common report, that he did not then understand his own works, is entirely groundless. According to Fontenelle, he was distinguished from other men by no sin-

gularities, either natural or affected. Though firmly attached to the church of England, he was averse to the persecution of the Non-conformists. He judged of men by their manners; and the true schismatics, in his opinion, were the vicious and the wicked. He did not, however, confine his principles to natural religion; for he was thoroughly persuaded of the truth of revelation; and, amidst the variety of books which he had constantly before him, that which he studied with the greatest application was the bible. Being naturally benevolent, he neglected no opportunity of doing good, which the revenues of his patrimony, and a profitable employment, improved by a prudent economy, put into his power. When decency required expence and shew, he was magnificent without ostentation; at all other times, that pomp, which seems great to low minds only, was entirely retrenched, and the money reserved for better uses. He never entered into the married state; perhaps he never had leisure to think of it. Being immersed in profound studies during the prime of life, and engaged afterwards in an employment of great importance, he was not sensible of any vacancy in life, or of the want of a domestic companion. At his death he left two and thirty thousand pounds; but he made no will, which Mr. Fontenelle tells us, was because he thought a legacy no gift.

Various authors have employed their talents in celebrating the abilities of this sublime genius; but the two following lines of the poet are perhaps more expressive, than whole volumes written by the hand of dulness.

Nature, and Nature's laws lay hid in night—
God said, Let Newton be, and all was light.

LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN ON HIS TRAVELS THROUGH RUSSIA, CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF PETERSBURGH *.

SINCE you are desirous of having some account of what I have seen during my residence at Petersburg, I shall endeavor to gratify your curiosity,

as far as business will permit. You must not, however, expect any thing complete.

T t

Petersburgh

* This letter was written in the year 1766.

Petersburgh, which lies under sixty degrees of north latitude, is built partly upon islands, and partly on the banks of the Neva, a large river, by which every commodity is conveyed to it that a great capital can require. The Neva, of all the large rivers in Europe, has the shortest course; the distance from the lake of Ladoga to the Gulph of Finland being only sixty wersts; nevertheless, as the lake of Ladoga is a reservoir for all the rivers of the northern part of Russia, except those which discharge themselves into the White Sea; and, as the Neva is the only river that flows from that lake, the abundance of its waters, divided into different arms and channels, renders the navigation of it easy. Add to this, that the canal of Ladoga, conveying even to the lake of the same name, and thence to Petersburg, all the merchandize of the interior parts of the empire, which were formerly transported by Revel and Hapsal, makes this capital the principal store-house of the Russian commerce.

It cannot, however, be disallowed, that Petersburg has many inconveniencies for its inhabitants. Its situation to the north-east occasions long and severe cold, which often shuts up its port, and for many months interrupts all commerce. The winter has no pleasures but for the rich, who are in want neither of fire nor of furs. In that season the presence of the court and nobility, and the great leisure of the merchants, give rise to a variety of amusements; and the purity of the air and the duration of the frost, seem to exhilarate the spirits and add vigour to the body. As abundance of snow constantly covers the surface of the frozen earth during that season, sledge-races are then very common; but the poor suffer greatly—their wages cease on the interruption of commerce, navigation, and agriculture, while their wants are increased, as they require then more clothes and more food. Petersburg is more brilliant in winter than in summer; but it is, perhaps,

then much less populous; the court, the nobility, and all their attendants being scarcely equivalent to the number of workmen who, in that season, retire into the provinces, where it is not so difficult to find a subsistence.

The summer at Petersburg is short, generally cold and rainy, and subject to sudden variations. The spring happens late. On the 16th of June we found it very comfortable to sit round a stove, well heated; and, after the month of August, the cold again began to return. Even in the middle of summer, the evenings are sensibly cold, and often the days also, if it rains, or if the wind blows; for this reason, the inhabitants of Petersburg are scarcely ever seen, even in summer, without their cloaks. There are almost always some hours in the day when these vestments are necessary. On account of this severity of the climate, plants, and above all, trees, are very uncommon, and their species are not numerous. Few can be made to thrive here; and these few require a long time for their growth, as the summer is so short. The wild chestnut-tree grows very slowly, and appears to suffer much, even shut up in a wooden box in the botanical garden. The lime-tree, if we except the grand avenues of Tsarsko-Zelo and of Peterhof, planted by Peter I. is extremely rare here. The fir-tree degenerates, though a native of the north, and is soon supplanted by the birch, which grows quicker, and requires less culture. For this reason gardens laid out in the English taste, are much prettier every where than at Petersburg. Serpentine canals, and basins have been dug at a great expence; but a variety of trees and shrubs is always wanting, and there is little shade; what is furnished by the birch being neither sufficiently thick nor agreeable.

Another inconvenience of the situation of Petersburg arises from its being built in a long and extensive plain, low and marshy, which is exposed to frequent and sudden inundations,

tions, when the long continuance of the strong east winds suspends the course of the Neva, which causes the neighbouring country to be overflowed. The most considerable of these inundations since the foundation of Petersburg, was that which happened on the 10th of September, 1777. It did not, however, continue long. The water began to subside in a short time; and at the end of a few hours, the river confined itself within its ordinary channel. Inundations occasioned by the ice of the Neva are as rare as those in the neighbourhood of the German rivers are common. The course of the Neva is not long, and its bed is broad: the ice, therefore, is less in quantity, and does not accumulate so much. It is true it is sometimes collected into heaps on the sand banks that are near its mouth; but its breadth is so great, that if the ice happens to swell its waters, they rarely cause inundations.

During winter, when the river carries shoals of ice along with its current, the bridge on the Neva is taken away, which interrupts the communication between the different quarters of the city; for this reason, the colleges of government, established formerly in Vasiliofrof, near the Exchange, have been removed to that part of the city where the castle stands; and the buildings which they occupied are converted into warehouses for the merchants, who have not occasion for so ready a correspondence with the court. The senate now sits in the ancient palace of Bestuchof, near the bridge over the Neva. The English merchants have also erected some buildings near the court, choosing rather, during winter, to be at a distance from the exchange than from the shops; and the nobility have now begun to reside there, in order that they may be enabled to go oftener to court in every season. It, however, cannot be denied, that the other side, that of Vasiliofrof, is much more agreeable. The view from it is more beautiful

and more extensive over the Neva, and it receives the rays of the rising sun, an exposition much sought for in the climate of Petersburg.

The streets of Petersburg, as in all cities that have a low situation, are extremely dirty on the least rain, and dusty in time of dry weather, to such a degree as to be almost insupportable when the high winds blow, which are very frequent. On account of the manner in which the bridges of the streets are constructed, they want solidity; the stones are rudely thrown together, and the interstices are filled up with mortar or bricks, half baked: a heavy carriage easily damages them. What would the case be were the inhabitants obliged to carry in our large carts, of which they have no idea, those heavy articles of merchandize that are at present transported by water?

The dust is not the only thing by which the eyes are incommoded at Petersburg: as the streets are very straight, they suffer much also from the rays of the sun, reflected between the lofty white houses, which, at certain times, afford no shade. A worse inconvenience arises in winter from the brightness of the snow, and the long continuance of the darkness. It is astonishing that the police have never thought of watering the streets of Petersburg in summer, as is done in Paris and other great cities. The abundance of the canals would be very convenient for this purpose, though the extent of the city and the size of the streets would encrease the labor.

The swampy nature of the soil produces immense swarms of gnats. They are not so abundant in the city; but the neighbourhood is pestered with them, though it is asserted, that in proportion as the buildings increase, they become less numerous.

Another inconvenience to strangers, even to those who have long resided here, is the water. I know that the water of the Neva is celebrated through all Europe, as the best and the purest that can be found; that the court use it every where, and

T t 2 even

even transport it with them when they travel; and that the late Mr. Modell, having first analyzed it, found very few particles of foreign bodies in it, and fewer minerals than in any other water, which may have induced the court to give it this preference. It is also clear and limpid, and has no bad taste; but it does not agree with strangers, as it affects in a manner more or less painful the organs of digestion, and often causes obstinate diarrhoeas and hemorrhoids, disorders which may easily become dangerous in a climate naturally too cold. As it hurt me, I cannot say much in its favor. People may accustom themselves to it, as to other noxious things; but water really good can never hurt strangers. The fault of it, as late experiments have discovered, is, that it contains too little fixed air. All mineral waters strengthen by their abounding with fixed air; but the water of the Neva relaxes, because it is entirely destitute of it, and cannot easily be impregnated with it by those processes which are employed to make artificial mineral waters.

Notwithstanding these inconveniences, Petersburg is still an object of wonder, when we consider, that in half a century, or little more, it has risen from nothing to be one of the first and most beautiful cities in Europe, and to this the present Empress has not a little contributed. It was a singular idea in Peter the First, to transport his residence and the seat of the empire from the beautiful climate of Moscow, to the Northern Frontiers, to a salt marsh, and to a place situated in a province recently conquered, the possession of which was not yet well secured; but the preponderance of Sweden soon ended, by the death of Charles XII. and that revolution in the government which followed.

The ancient Russian nobility could not be fond of Petersburg, which confined them to a dismal climate, almost unknown to them, and sometimes more than a thousand leagues from their possessions. The greater part of them

reside at Moscow, and few of them have bought estates in the neighbourhood of Petersburg. Those who have obtained lands in the provinces conquered from the Swedes, are the favourites, and new nobility. The despotic order of Peter I. by which every nobleman who possessed five hundred peasants was obliged to erect buildings on a certain quantity of ground at Petersburg, and those who possessed a thousand, to build on the double, was not sufficient to finish the city.—The luxury of late years, and the multiplied enterprizes of government, by putting large sums in circulation, has had more effect than all the edicts of government. For this reason, more houses have been built in Petersburg, in the present reign, than from the first foundation of the city, till the year 1762.

The principal causes of Peter's transferring the imperial residence to Petersburg, were the hatred he had conceived against Moscow, on account of those dangerous insurrections of the people, which frequently happened there, and his fondness for making Russia an European power. Having in his travels acquired a knowledge of the manners and customs of the nations of Europe, he judged they would be very proper to strengthen his authority, consequently preferable to those of his own subjects, and he was desirous of forming them upon these models. To these causes we may add, the beauty of the Neva, and Peter's extraordinary passion for the marine.

He was very desirous of having a fleet, and, for this reason, his presence was continually necessary in the neighbourhood of the docks, where he had ordered ships to be constructed. Petersburg, however, considered as a port, and a station for a fleet, can never become very important. Although the Neva is a beautiful river, it presents many difficulties for navigation. Besides the isles and rocks of the Gulph of Finland, which are extremely dangerous, even in summer, and the ice, which covers the river during one half of the year, the shoals and sandbanks

barks at its mouth, shut it up entirely to large vessels. Those which draw more than eight feet of water, cannot go to Peterburgh. With regard to ships of war, as soon as the hulls are constructed, they must be carried down to Cronstadt, to be rigged and finished. Revel, Hapsal, and several other places of Estonia and Livonia, would be much more convenient for a fleet.

On the first view, Peterburgh exhibits a grand and noble aspect, which generally strikes strangers. The breadth and straightness of the streets, the height and extent of the buildings, the beauty of the Neva, and of its different channels, form a prospect altogether magnificent. According to the original plan of Peter I. the city was to have been built after the Dutch manner. It was intended to have a large canal in the middle of every street, which would have greatly contributed to its beauty, and to the convenience of the inhabitants. This plan has been long abandoned, because the first canals in Vasiliofrof are too small, and perhaps for the sake of saving expence. At present, the oldest streets only have canals, and these are so narrow, that they offend both the sight and the smell. They are scarcely a fathom in breadth.— They are lined with wood, have no slope, and the water in them, which is stagnant and stinking, is very prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants. These canals contribute very little to the neatness of the streets, for the houses are built in such a manner, that the water is not conveyed to them; for this reason, they have been filled up, in several places, and it is astonishing that they have not been filled up entirely, since, in their present condition, they do more hurt than service.

At the corner of every street, there is a post, painted green, upon which its name is inscribed, in white letters, both in the Russian and German languages. The characters of the latter are Roman. On account of the regularity and breadth of the

streets, the course of the Neva, the churches, and steeples, strangers seldom lose their way in Peterburgh, even on their first arrival. The gilded turret of the admiralty, which may be seen from all quarters, and commands the whole city, is always conspicuous. The streets are very indifferent, but on each side there is a foot pavement, formed of large stones, which is exceedingly convenient for foot passengers.

Peterburgh is open on all sides. A few years ago, a wall and a ditch were begun to be carried round it, some remains of which are still to be seen, on the road to Peterhof, with a beautiful gate, constructed with the same design. This plan was probably formed in order to prevent smuggling, and, perhaps, also to establish an excise; but this project has been abandoned, and the walls are now falling to ruin. The city is defended on one side by the castle of Schlusselfbourg, and on the other, by that of Kronschloß; what is called the citadel, is used only for firing a few cannon on days of public rejoicing, for coining money, and confining state prisoners.

The buildings of Peterburgh are large and extensive. Peter the Great, its founder, was desirous of making it a magnificent and flourishing city, and his successors have not deviated from his plan. The palace of the present Empress is one of the greatest ornaments of the city, which is indebted to her also for the new quay on the Neva, a matchless work, that will immortalize the memory of the present government. It consists of a parapet of granite, breast high, which, in solidity, beauty and extent, surpasses every thing else of the kind. Buildings are here continually going forward. The magnificent stables near the shops, the new exchange, the hotel of the Academy of Sciences, and the great church of Isaac, of marble, near the bridge of the Neva, are not yet finished.

In erecting her new palace, the Empress, by her example, has inspired

spired the inhabitants with a strong desire for building. Wood, stones, and other materials, are seen arriving from all quarters, and new edifices arising. It cannot be denied, that a great number of these edifices are built with a magnificence ill suited to their destination. The building contiguous to my inn resembles a palace. It is large, and sumptuous enough for a minister of state; but I was very much surprized to see the windows secured by large bars of iron, and to observe, through these bars, several wretched figures, who were receiving alms from the passengers, by means of a small leather bag suspended to a cord. This I found to be a prison, and indeed it is the most beautiful in the world. It is cruel, no doubt, to confine poor prisoners in subterranean dungeons; but certainly there is no occasion to give them a palace in one of the most beautiful quarters of the city. Why should prisons and hospitals be made objects of luxury, whilst those who inhabit them live in misery?

The houses even of private people at Petersburg are so large and magnificent, that it easily appears government have had a hand in their construction. They have really caused many to be built, and assisted greatly in erecting others; but, notwithstanding all this assistance, there are a great many vacant spots still in Petersburg, as well as wooden houses. Though a taste for building has prevailed only of late years, the rent of houses has risen considerably, which does not proceed so much from an increase of population, as from an excess of luxury; for people who were formerly contented with one or two apartments, must now have whole houses; and to this we may add, that crowd of servants, who are multiplied with all the pomp of oriental splendor.

Besides common brick, a kind of granite, with large white or yellow spots, is used for building; particularly for the foundations, which must be so much the more solid, as the ground is marshy: it is employed also

for paving, and for other works where strength and duration are required. It is procured in large blocks from Finland, the whole coast of which is one rock of it; and as it is easily transported to Petersburg, it is not very expensive. The banks of the Lake of Ladoga abound with different kinds of marble, harder, and of greater solidity, than those of Italy. The new church of Isaac is constructed of this marble.

Solidity and duration have not been the principal objects consulted in building Petersburg. The houses spring up like mushrooms, and soon crumble to pieces in the same manner. Several have need of repairs before they are finished; and, as they are not kept in good order, they have a ruinous appearance. It was found necessary to repair the academy a long time before it was in a condition to receive the academicians. Its exterior coat had entirely fallen off in several places. This inconvenience arises from the bad preparation of the lime, which in this climate ought to be excellent; but, after it is burnt, it is brought to Petersburg upon the Neva, in open boats, where it is exposed to the air and moisture, both when it is put into the boats and taken out of them, which destroys its strength, and renders it less fit for the purpose of cementing stones together.

Few taxes are paid in Petersburg. This moderation was necessary to accomplish the proposed end, of making it soon become a large capital. Nothing is required on the part of government. Every thing goes for the behoof of the city, and the police expends it, in paying for the quartering of soldiers, fire-men, &c. Every house would pay in proportion to the number of its apartments and stoves, were there not abuses in laying on and collecting the taxes. To remedy this, it has been proposed that each house should pay in proportion to the ground which it occupies; but those whose interest it is to have the present mode continued, have opposed this plan. A
house

house of any extent pays for the quartering of soldiers seventy or eighty roubles, and sixty or seventy for the police and fire-men, which amount

together to about one hundred and fifty roubles*. The buildings which belong to government are exempted from this burden.

BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES OF PETER ANICH, AN INGENIOUS GERMAN PEASANT.

PETER Anich was born at Oberperfuss, a small village, three leagues distant from Inspruck, on the 22d of February, 1723. His father, whose name was Ingenuin Anich, was a labourer, and occasionally exercised the profession of a turner. Young Anich pursued the occupation of a labourer and shepherd till he was twenty-five years of age; but instead of employing his vacant hours in vain amusements, or dissipation, he was generally absorbed in deep thought and meditation. He seemed equally indifferent to rural enjoyments, and to the pleasures of love. The sight of those beautiful orbs which are continually revolving over our heads, had so engaged his attention, that he often retired to the fields before the dawn of day, and in the evening, after the sun had sunk below the horizon, in order to contemplate the different positions of the heavenly bodies, and to examine their respective magnitudes and revolutions. He was entirely unacquainted even with the elements of letters, for he could neither read nor write; but his observations, his reflections, and, above all, the machines, which by his own ingenuity he constructed, enabled him in some measure to acquire a tolerable knowledge of astronomy. He appeared to be greatly astonished, when he was informed that there were learned men at the city of Inspruck, well acquainted with those parts of science which were the objects of his researches; but when he was told that several of these learned men instructed those who were desirous in the knowledge of the stars, he hastened to Inspruck, in order to find some one who might clear up all his doubts. Fa-

ther Hill, a Jesuit, who was professor of astronomy in the university of that city, took him under his care, and admitted him into the number of his pupils. In this situation he soon gave evident proofs of the brightness of his genius, and of his great turn for mechanical and mathematical pursuits.

Father Hill, in his *Astronomical Ephemerides* for the year 1767, relates some of the most remarkable circumstances in the life of this self-taught astronomer. The first time he presented himself before the professor, he asked him if it was he who taught people how to observe the heavens, and the stars. The professor, surprised at this question of the peasant, said to him, Why do you ask? What have you to do with my observations? "Though a labourer and a shepherd," replied Anich, "I have observed the course of the stars as well as you; but without principles, and without method—for I am very ignorant; and it is in order that I may be enabled to make juster observations that I have come hither to find you. Instruct me, I pray, for I am very desirous to be acquainted with the motion of the stars, and to know what cause directs their course."

Father Hill, astonished at the ardor which this young man testified, examined him with more attention; he asked him several questions, his answers to which displayed a wonderful sagacity, an uncommon justness of reasoning, and a most retentive memory. From that time the professor reckoned him among the number of his scholars, and, foreseeing what service astronomy might one day reap

* About 35l. sterling.

from such a pupil, he advised him to begin, by acquiring some theoretical knowledge, before he attempted to make any observations. Anich, oppressed by poverty, and almost in a state of indigence, had many obstacles to surmount; but what cannot a man do, who is fired with the ardor of enthusiasm, and whose mind is bent upon a favorite pursuit? In a short time he learned to read, and on Sundays, and holidays, he went regularly to Inspruck, to be instructed in the principles of practical geometry, and of mechanics. Father Hill, in proportion as his new pupil made a progress in these branches of science, shewed him various mathematical instruments necessary for students; all of which Anich examined with the greatest nicety and attention, and constructed others of the same kind, but more perfect and exact. The professor asked him to make a globe for the use of the academy of Inspruck. As the construction of this globe presented a number of difficulties, it was much doubted whether Anich, notwithstanding all the proofs which he had given of his talents, would be able to succeed; but some time after, in the year 1756, he appeared at the academy of Inspruck with his globe in his hand. To say only that several mathematicians and astronomers bestowed the highest praises on this ingenious mechanic, would not be doing him justice; his globe was found to be so accurate and perfect, that it was thought worthy of a place in the cabinet of the Empress-Queen. Father Weinhard wrote to Father Hill, that it was the most beautiful and the completest machine he had ever beheld. Anich had traced out all the stars upon it by means of points, and, without any other assistance than what he derived from his memory, had assigned to each star its proper place: the points which represented the stars were formed of small polished bits of steel, so that this globe exhibited even their sparkling brightness.

Our readers would have but a very imperfect idea of Anich's mechanical

abilities, did we not inform them, that among the additions which he made to his celestial globe, he fitted a kind of watch to the horizon, and eight small wheels, which being connected with the dial plate, pointed out, by means of three needles, the diversity of the motion of the sun, moon, and fixed stars.

One day when Anich was marking the sign cancer upon a sphere, he placed the concave part of the tail of the crab uppermost, and being asked who had taught him to delineate a crab in that manner, he replied, nobody; but I thought, added he, that I must place it in that situation. Such was the sagacity of this singular man, that he understood, by a kind of divination, if we may be allowed the expression, what was necessary to be done, although he had never learned it.

Anich having succeeded so well in the construction of a celestial globe, was desired to undertake that of a terrestrial. But in this Anich found a very great obstacle; he could scarcely write; he formed his letters so badly, that he had great difficulty himself in reading what he had written. But what difficulty could he not surmount? He applied himself closely to writing, and, at the end of a few months, he wrote as well as the ablest masters. His terrestrial globe was finished in April, 1759. This admirable and accurate piece of workmanship is of the same size as his celestial globe, that is to say, about three feet in diameter. They are both made of a remarkably hard kind of wood, and very ingeniously formed, although Anich employed only, for that purpose, a common lathe. These spheres preserve their equilibrium with so much exactness, that in whatever manner they may be placed, they remain suspended, and at rest; but they move with so much facility, that the motion of a watch is sufficient to make them revolve, nor is the going of the watch in the least interrupted.

Anich was better acquainted with geometry than with astronomy, and Father Hill, his instructor and friend,
made

made choice of him to construct and delineate a general chart of Tyrol*. Mr. de Sperg had already sketched out the southern part, which Anich finished, and added the upper, or northern part to it. This painful and laborious task he executed in the most rigorous season of the year, during the months of November and December.

Government were so well satisfied with this performance, that Anich was commissioned to make out a new geographical chart of all Tyrol. This he did with so much correctness, that when he presented his chart, which was four feet and a half in height, and seven feet in breadth, it exhibited not only the rivers, mountains, forests, cities, and villages of Tyrol, but even every farm, and the smallest inequality of the ground. He had before attempted to delineate a map of the seat of the war between the Empress Queen and the king of Prussia, but in such a manner as to distinguish all those places conquered by these powers, and by their allies. This map was only five feet in length, and about three in breadth, yet there was not the smallest spot, in all that extent of territory, which was not marked with the greatest accuracy. It may well be supposed that he did not purchase the instruments which he employed in this work; for where could he have found others equally exact as those which he constructed himself? There is not perhaps a mathematical or geometrical instrument which he did not construct, and in which he did not make considerable improvements.

Anich, with all his great talents, had so much modesty, that he would never quit his rustic dress, nor the cottage in which he was born. There he was often seen, surrounded by the instruments which he used in his first occupation, studying, tracing out charts, and constructing globes and machines, which will always excite the admiration of geographers and

mathematicians. But his multiplied labours greatly tended to shorten his days. The continual exertion of his mind exhausted his body; or, according to the expression of a modern poet, the blade wore out the scabbard.— During the last years of his life, he dragged out his existence amidst the languors of old age, and all the infirmities of an universal decay of nature; he became so dull and inactive, that he could with difficulty walk.— One day, in the summer of the year 1766, when faint with heat, he went to bathe in a neighbouring river, and having remained five hours in the water, he was seized with a bilious fever, which ended in a general dropsy, that increased for several months. No hopes were entertained of his recovery, when, contrary to general expectation, the swelling decreased, and the dropsy suddenly disappeared. Anich's first care after he got better, was to repair to the church of his village, and return thanks to the beneficent Deity; but on his return, when he was about to enter his own house, he was attacked by a violent head ache, which was followed by a total loss of sight, and he died the following morning, at the age of forty-three. His death happened in the year 1766.

The Empress Queen greatly regretted the loss of so industrious and ingenious a subject. This princess intended to give him a pension for life, of two hundred florins; for, notwithstanding his great labours, all Anich's wealth consisted in a great stock of learning, together with abundance of modesty, a virtue which seldom conducts to fortune. His sister, however, obtained from the liberality of the Empress, a part of the pension destined for her brother. Anich was interred in the church belonging to the village of Oberperstuss, which is now become celebrated for having been the birth-place of this extraordinary man.

* A county of Germany, and part of the hereditary states of the House of Austria. It is bounded on the north by Bavaria, on the South by the Venetian territories, on the east by Carinthia, and the Archbishopric of Salzburg, and on the west by Switzerland and the country of the Grisons.

A REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF CREDULITY IN LOUIS XIV.
AND CARDINAL RICHELIEU.

NOEL PIGARD, surnamed DUBOIS, was a native of Colommiers, in Brie, and the son of a surgeon. Having learned a little Latin in his youth, he began to study physic, in order to follow the profession of his father; but as he was naturally of a sickle disposition, he soon became tired of that employment, and entered into the service of a man of quality, named Dufay, who carried him to the Levant, where he travelled for the space of four years. Dubois soon gave evident signs of the versatility of his genius, by the desire which he shewed of being acquainted with the occult sciences, such as chiromancy, magic, astrology, and alchemy. When he returned from his travels, he took up his residence at Paris, and endeavoured to form an acquaintance with those who pretended to be adepts in the hermetical philosophy. Having passed six years in such company, and in debauchery, he began to be touched with remorse, and in a fit of devotion, or, perhaps, having no longer any thing wherewith to subsist, he entered among the Capuchins of the street of St. Honore; but at the end of eight months, becoming disgusted with this new kind of life, he laid aside the frock, and made his escape, by getting over the walls of the Tuilleries. As he had not yet openly made profession, little notice was taken of his flight. Three years after, his restless disposition brought him back into the seraphic order; and when the time of his noviciate was expired, he pronounced the vows, was admitted into holy orders, and even to the priesthood, and assumed the name of Father Simon. Having retained his former manners, together with the companions of his pleasures, his turn for dissipation was renewed; he, therefore, quitted the habit of a Capuchin, and set out on

a journey into Germany. Here he embraced the Lutheran religion, and gave himself up entirely to the study of alchemy: he did not, however, acquire the art of making gold, but he learned the secret of imposing upon the ignorant, by pretending to be able to discover the philosopher's stone. With this excellent secret, he returned to Paris, where he expected to find plenty of dupes; and as he thought that the Capuchins would not give themselves any farther trouble concerning him, after an absence of seven or eight years, he abjured his apostacy, and married at St. Sulpice, a woman named Susannah Le Clerc.

Dubois, by his artifice and effrontery, found means to get intimately acquainted with several people of quality; and, among others, with the Abbé Blondeau, uncle of Madame de Chavigny. The Abbé, who was a weak and credulous man, considered Dubois as a wonderful character, possessed of the most curious secrets, and particularly of that of making gold with the greatest facility. The Abbé made him acquainted with the famous Father Joseph, from whom he obtained a promise that no notice would be taken of his past life. The good Capuchin granted every thing required of him, in hopes of procuring to his protector Cardinal Richelieu, an adept who would augment the grandeur of his Eminence and the riches of France, and furnish the means of easing the people, and of defraying all the expences of a ruinous war carried on against the enemies of the King. His Eminence was soon informed of this happy adventure; and as Father Joseph had full ascendancy over him, he did not entertain the smallest doubt of the truth of what had been told him. It was at length agreed, that this maker of gold should give an essay of his art in presence

presence of the King, the Queen, the Cardinal, Father Joseph, the Abbé Blondeau, several superintendants, and of others who were highly interested in the success of this great work. A day being fixed upon, Dubois repaired to the Louvre, carrying with him a crucible and other apparatus necessary for making the experiment. A fire was lighted up, and his vessels were placed in order; but, to avoid all suspicion of deception, he admitted, as his assistant in the work, an officer of the body guards, named Saint Amour, whom the King himself had chosen for that purpose. When every thing was ready, Dubois asked, with a loud voice, if his majesty would be pleased to order one of the soldiers to bring him ten or twelve gun bullets, that he might convert them into gold, which was done in the most formal manner, and with all the solemnity of mystery. When the lead was put into the crucible, it was exposed to that degree of heat which was requisite to produce the desired effect; and Dubois, at the same time, took care to shew the spectators that he threw upon the bullets about a grain of what he called his powder of projection. After which he covered the lead in the crucible with ashes, being very necessary, as he pretended, to forward the process; but in reality the better to conceal his manœuvres. When it was time to shew the result of this grand operation, Dubois, under pretence of arranging the crucible, dextrously, and without any one's perceiving it, as he afterwards confessed, slipped a certain quantity of gold under the ashes. Being then well assured, that he had obtained gold, he begged the King to remove the ashes with a pair of bellows, or to order any one else to do it. The King was unwilling to entrust this office to any one, and as he blew with great violence, through impatience to discover this specimen of the great riches which were promised him, the curious

spectators, who were all attention, were covered with the ashes, which flew about the room; nor did the Queen escape without receiving her share of them. At length, when the golden ingot appeared, it excited a shout of joy in the whole assembly, and caused so agreeable a surprise, that his Majesty and his Eminence embraced Dubois, and bestowed upon him every mark of favor, satisfaction, and gratitude. The King, in the enthusiasm of his joy, declared him noble, and knighted him upon the spot. He, at the same time, conferred upon him the office of president of the treasuries of France, of the new creation, at Montpellier, and gave him permission to hunt wherever he chose throughout all the royal domains. The Cardinal said, that his Majesty ought to abolish all the tolls, taxes, imposts, and subsidies, which were burthensome to the people, and retain only for himself some rights, together with the crown lands, as marks of his sovereignty and supreme power, and he announced the revival of the golden age, and the superiority of France over all the nations of Europe. A Cardinal's hat was again promised to Father Joseph; the Abbé Blandeau was named counsellor of state, and the same day had his letters patent, with a promise of the first vacant bishoprick. Saint Amour received eight thousand livres* for having assisted at this noble experiment; in short, the whole court were ravished with the discovery, and appeared to be intoxicated with joy. Dubois made a new experiment, and employed the same dexterity to preserve the enthusiasm of the spectators. The King himself took the crucible from the fire, with a pair of tongs, and the sight of a second ingot redoubled his pleasure, though it was less than the first, which weighed nine ounces, the weight of the other being only four. A goldsmith was immediately sent for, who, after having assayed the two specimens, found that they

* Above three hundred pounds sterling.

were nothing else but pistoles, that is to say, gold twenty-two carrats fine. Dubois fearing that this similarity in the fineness of his gold to that of money might create some suspicion, took the earliest opportunity of declaring, that he made gold of this standard as specimens, but that, when he should begin to make it in large quantities, it would be pure, and twenty-four carrats fine. This reason satisfied the assembly, who took pleasure in their illusion, but it appeared very suspicious to the goldsmith.

After the experiments were made, and when nothing more seemed wanting, the Cardinal took Dubois aside, and discoursed with him concerning the quantity of gold which it would be necessary for him to furnish; he informed him that the King would have occasion for 600,000 * livres regularly every week; and this impostor had the effrontery to promise that sum, provided he would allow him ten days, to give, as he said, the last degree of strength to the nine ounces of the powder of multiplication which he had, and which by accident had become crude, adding, that he intended to bring it to the highest perfection, and to make pure gold. The Cardinal replied, that he would not only allow him ten, but twenty days, if he should find them necessary. Dubois, instead of applying to labor, which he knew would be in vain, employed his time in the pleasures of the chase, and in the joys of the table; he assembled all the adepts with whom he was acquainted, regaled them in the most magnificent manner, and entertained them with an account of his success, and of his sublime science. He was now every where looked upon as an extraordinary man, and in some measure as a deity. The time however was elapsing, and no preparation was made: the Cardinal sent Father Joseph to solicit the maker of gold to begin his operations; he requested some days longer, but he employed them to little better purpose;

while the King was very impatient to see the golden mountains which Dubois had promised him. As they did not appear, both the King and the Cardinal began to suspect that they had been duped, which indeed was the case. Orders were given to watch Dubois, and to prevent him from absconding, as he intended, and his Eminence sent people, in one of his own carriages, to search for him. When he arrived at Ruel, the Cardinal would not see him; but caused him to be confined, in order that he might apply to his work. Dubois made, or pretended to make, several attempts, without producing any thing. He was then transported to the castle of Vincennes, where, after many trials, still in vain, it at length clearly appeared that he was an impostor, and Mr. Fermas conducted him in a coach to the Bastille. The Cardinal could not forgive him, for having imposed upon him in so solemn and public a manner: commissioners were appointed to try him; and his Eminence wishing that it might appear he had been deceived by some supernatural art, ordered them to insist principally on the crime of magic, of which Dubois was now accused. Before they proceeded to the trial, Mr. Fermas, who was at the head of the commission, endeavoured to make himself acquainted with the nature of alchemy; he perused several treatises upon that foolish science, after which he interrogated Dubois, first respecting the terms of the hermetical art and magic, and afterwards concerning the filing of money, which was indeed all the art possessed by this wretched impostor, though he would not acknowledge it. After a trial, which lasted ten or twelve days, he was condemned to the rack, in order that he might be compelled to disclose the truth, and to confess that he intended to deceive the king and the cardinal. Dubois, however, had the impudence to maintain that he was not guilty of such a design; and, to justify him-

* About twenty-five thousand pounds sterling.

self, he declared he was ready to repeat his experiments, and to make gold. Upon this he was taken from the rack, and as people are generally very credulous in things which they ardently desire, every necessary was ordered to be got ready for him next morning, that he might begin his labor. Two of the most skilful goldsmiths of Paris were however invited to be present, and to watch all his motions. Dubois lighted up his fire in his usual manner, and people, appointed for the purpose, executed with the greatest punctuality whatever he commanded. He himself touched very few things; however as he was narrowly watched by the two goldsmiths, and as he besides wanted some golden powder, which, he said, he could not procure in prison, he lengthened out his experiments till the close of the day; but he at last abandoned them, saying, he was not free to reveal his secret, and that he would not teach it to people whom he did not know. When he saw that the rack was to be again applied, he promised to make a full confession of all his deceptions, which he *did*, and discovered the means he had employed to deceive the king, the cardinal, and his ministers. After he had made this confession, he was interrogated with respect to magic, the truth of which, people even at that time were foolish enough to believe. It is pretended, that he himself was convinced of it, and that he could not help acknowledging it. The questions put to him were founded upon an accident which happened during the night to one of the cardinal's guards, when this impostor was detained at Ruel. It is related, that this guard complained of being severely beaten, about two o'clock in the morning, without being able to see, or to touch the person who struck him; and a report was spread abroad that it was the devil, whom Dubois had let loose, to revenge himself for the bad treatment he had met with. This fact, with several others, is mentioned in the process, as proofs of his practising forcery. Mr. Fermas in-

terrogating him with respect to this magic, which he denied but feebly, asked him, why the devils, who were his friends, or under his command, did not rescue him from prison, or teach him the valuable secret of making gold, of which he had boasted so much, as these were the greatest services they could have rendered him in the situation in which he then was. To these questions, which were indeed unanswerable, he made no reply. After this second accusation, the commissioners proceeded to a third, much more just, which was his debasing and filing the current coin. To support this charge, there were found at Dubois' apartments several instruments, and pieces of filed money. The powder, which he procured in this manner, was the bait he employed to impose on the weak and credulous; for, with the value of eight or ten pistoles, of which he made small ingots, and by using them in his experiments, and shewing them as specimens of what he could do, he drew large sums from those who were silly enough to suffer themselves to be deceived. The Abbé Blondeau, who was his confidant, and at the same time his dupe, had advanced him eight thousand francs, before he introduced him to Father Joseph.

Dubois had written a small book, which, he said, contained his secret for making gold; and he sold this work, in manuscript, for more or less, according as he found interested and credulous purchasers; there were even some of his disciples, people of good character, who sold it for his behoof. Mr. De la Jaille, master of the accounts of Nantz, is mentioned among others.

In short, this impostor, being convicted of several crimes deserving death, was condemned to be hung. He, however, still maintained that he had made gold, and that the dread of the rack only had made him acknowledge the contrary. No attention was paid to this assertion; and as he was going to the place of punishment, his confessor, who was a Carmelite, prevailed

prevailed on him to acknowledge his crimes; upon which he was conducted to the house of a notary, where he declared and certified, as he was about to be launched into eternity, and to render an account of his actions to the Supreme Being, that he had deceived the king, the queen, and the cardinal, by premeditated design; that he implored their pardon; that all he had done was mere imposture, that he had never known or seen any person who could make gold, except by deception; but that even this art had enabled him to live very comfortably, which it was easy for him to do, as the world abounded with credulous people. In presence of Mr. Fermas he signed a declaration, by which he acquitted Saint Amour, whom he had accused by his answers on his trial; after which he was again put into the cart, and drawn to the place of execution, where he suffered the punish-

ment inflicted by the law, with courage and resignation, on the 25th of June, 1637.

History makes mention of three impostors of this kind, who attempted to deceive some of the kings of France, by pretending to be acquainted with the art of making gold.

The first was one named John Gaultier, Baron of Plumeroles, who deceived Charles IX. and borrowed from him 120,000 livres, after having worked only eight days; but two months after he was taken, and hanged. The second was called Guy de Crusembourg, to whom, about the year 1615, twenty thousand crowns were given by an arret of council, in order that he might commence his operations in the Bastille; but after being there about three weeks he found means to escape, and was never again heard of; and the third was Dubois, whose tragical history we have here related.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CAUSE OF THE AURORA BOREALIS.*

THE desire we have of being acquainted with the causes of those wonderful phenomena which nature every where displays to our sight, becomes strong in proportion to their brilliancy; and certainly there is none which, in this respect, can be compared with the Aurora Borealis, the splendor and magnificence of which, are beyond all expression. Philosophers at first imagined, that exhalations, rising from the earth into the atmosphere, and there experiencing a kind of fermentation, produced that light, and those luminous rays, which form the Aurora Borealis. But terrestrial exhalations rise only a few miles from the surface of the earth, and can never reach that immense height which is generally the seat of the Aurora Borealis; this seems to be sufficiently proved by observations made upon the same phenomenon, in places very remote from each other,

and by its parallax. Some eminent geometers have concluded, from trigonometrical calculations, made with the greatest exactness, that the height of this phenomenon is sometimes two, and even three hundred leagues. Father Boscovich, a celebrated mathematician, has determined the height of the Aurora Borealis, observed at Padua, on the 16th of December, 1737, by the Marquis of Poleni, to have been two hundred and seventy-five leagues.

To account for this extraordinary phenomenon, some philosophers have had recourse to the ice and snow found near the poles, which reflect the sun's rays towards the higher parts of the atmosphere. But whence proceed those fiery pillars and those streams of light which constitute the Aurora Borealis? Mr. Halley attributed the formation of the Aurora Borealis to the magnetic effluvia, which issuing

* Translated from the Abbe Bertholon's Treatise on the Electricity of Meteors, lately published.

from both the poles of the earth, circulate around it. But how can we reconcile this hypothesis with those brilliant columns and streams of fire? The magnetic fluid has never become luminous around a loadstone, heated to ignition upon burning coals. According to Mr. Mairan, the Aurora Borealis is caused by the solar atmosphere, which sometimes approaches very near to the terrestrial; but this extravagant idea is supported only by very precarious principles, and has been generally abandoned. The celebrated Euler thinks, that the Aurora Borealis is no less than several thousands of miles distant from the earth, and that it is the effect of the impulsion of the solar rays upon the most subtle particles of our atmosphere. This opinion is liable to many difficulties.

It appears to me, that it was reserved for electricity to unveil this phenomenon, which, in some measure, may be called a mystery of nature.—Philosophers, however, have been hitherto contented with saying, in a vague and general manner, that the Aurora Borealis is caused by the electric fluid, and no author has attempted to give an explanation of all its phenomena. Electricity, therefore, is only a term of expression; but it is not in this manner that we ought to treat of the sciences. In order that I may proceed with more certainty in the present discussion, I think it necessary to establish incontrovertible principles, which may serve as a basis to what I am going to advance.

First, Electricity, which reigns throughout all nature, is found to be stronger, and more abundant, the higher we go. This assertion is proved by conductors, elevated to receive the atmospherical electricity.—The force of the sparks drawn from them, is in proportion to their height. Electric kites, which produce sparks and flashes of fire, increasing in size according to their elevation, may fully convince us of the truth of this principle. I shall here mention only the experiments made with electric kites, by Romas, Franklin, Brydone,

and several others, which may be found in their works.

Secondly, The rarefaction of the air is in proportion to its height.—No one can doubt the truth of this proposition; the difficulty people find in breathing on the tops of high mountains, and the falling of the mercury in the barometer, are incontrovertible proofs of it.

Thirdly, The rarer the air is, the more electricity shews itself, under the form of a phosphoric light. Experience strongly testifies in favor of this truth. In a flask, exhausted of air, by means of an air pump, or in tubes deprived of air, when applied to the conductor of an electrical machine, we may see whitish flames and streams of light, agitated by different motions, the successive appearance and disappearance of which, render them much more brilliant, and give them a perfect resemblance to an Aurora Borealis. But the vacuum caused by an air pump, is not a perfect vacuum; it contains air highly rarified, and the degrees of the rarefaction follow a certain progression, with regard to the size of the receiver, and the body of the pump, which proves, that the vacuum is not absolute, but relative.

Fourthly, The electric fluid naturally tends from places where it is most abundant, to others where it is less so; this is a principle of hydrostatics, which cannot be doubted, and daily experience besides confirms it. A body positively electrified, shares its excess of electricity with one that is electrified negatively, or even with one which has only its natural electricity; and the more density a body negatively electrified has, the greater is the reciprocal attraction, or the tendency of the electric fluid towards it. It is thus that sparks, or flashes, are drawn from a conductor, at a greater or less distance, by presenting to it bodies of more or less density.

Fifthly, The electric fluid, in its different degrees, appears white, red, yellow, &c. By charging the magical square more or less, and discharging it in these different circumstances, with

with the discharging rod, this variety of colors may be observed, and consequently these different degrees of density.

Sixthly, All fire and flame seen through vapors and exhalations, appear red, and especially phosphoric light. This truth requires no proofs; daily experience demonstrates it. But in order to be convinced that the diffuse light which appears by streams in a flask, freed from air, experiences the same modifications, I must observe, that whilst the electrical machine was putting my electrical phosphorus in motion, I have seen it, in several places, of a red color, when I looked at it through vapors and exhalations, which I raised on purpose.—It is an effect of refraction, which decomposes the rays of light, according to the doctrine of Newton. If we cast our eyes, at certain times, upon the western clouds, when the sun begins to disappear, we shall often find them tinged with a bright red, notwithstanding the light of the day.—This is an observation I have often made. The rays of the sun, in this case, are either reflected or refracted by the clouds.

Seventhly, The electric matter, which is very abundant in the upper regions, tends rather to the poles than to the equator, on account of the centrifugal force, which is less towards the poles—a necessary consequence of the rotation of the earth round its own axis.*

Eighthly, The electric fluid never shews itself in greater abundance, or with more force, than during frosty weather, in the northern regions, and in places where the most severe cold prevails. This proposition is proved by the observations of the Abbe Chappe, at Tobolsk, and in other parts of Siberia, where he has seen thunder and lightning much more frequent than in any other country; by electrical observations, made in every part of Europe, from which it results, that electricity has more power and

energy in winter than in summer, and during cold, than during warm weather; and by the experiments of Mr. Achard, of the academy of Berlin, from which we may conclude, that ice or water, in a state of congelation, is very electric, at a considerable degree of cold, at twenty-seven degrees even below Zero. On this account, therefore, he made many electrical experiments, with globes and plates of ice.—These are new facts with which we have been but lately made acquainted, and which confirm this principle in a very striking manner.

The more one rises, or is removed from the surface of the earth, the greater cold one feels; for this reason the summits of very high mountains are always covered with snow. At the height of about two thousand three hundred toises above the level of the sea, there is no plant whatever to be seen; at the elevation of two thousand four hundred and thirty-four toises only, the snow is perpetual, and never melts at any time of the year, even under the equator, as has been observed by Godin, Bouguer and Condamine, French academicians, sent by order of the king, in 1735, to measure a degree of the equator. This zone, or belt of snow, forms, therefore, a level line with regard to those places where it does not melt; and the summit of Chimboraco, one of the Cordilleras, the height of which, according to geometrical measurement, is three thousand two hundred and twenty toises, is inaccessible, on account of the great cold which prevails in that part of the atmosphere which covers it, though in the torrid zone, and almost under the line. This cold, which is experienced on Pitchincha, Cotopaxi, Chimboraco, and the rest of the Cordilleras, the elevation of which surpasses that of any other mountains in the world, is so excessively severe, that animals cannot possibly withstand it; and bodies are so frozen and hardened by it, that they never become corrupted. According

* See the beautiful theorems of Huyghens and Newton on this subject.

to the account of Zarata,* when Don Diego d'Almagro was going to discover Chili, several of his soldiers perished with cold in these mountains. Returning the same way, five months after, in the middle of summer, he found their bodies upright, leaning against the rocks, and all as fresh as if they had been dead only a few moments. Some of them were on foot, and even holding the bridles of their horses, the flesh of which served as food to Almagro and his companions.

The electric fluid, by the first, second, and third principle being more abundant, and having greater force in the high regions of the atmosphere, which extends, according to the calculations of Mairan, Euler, and Boscovich, to at least two or three hundred leagues, must tend towards its lower regions, by the fourth and first principle, and towards the pole rather than the equator, by the seventh and eighth. But, by the third, it will shew itself in its passage, under the form of a pale light, diffuse and phosphoric, and like that of the streams and rays which are seen in an exhausted flask, when applied to the conductor of an electrical machine. This light will appear white, or red, according to the different degrees of the density of the electric fluid, by the fifth principle, and its color will still be variously modified, by the vapors and exhalations dispersed throughout different parts of the atmosphere, agreeably to the sixth principle. Here, therefore, we see every thing essential in this phenomenon, the explanation of which will not appear satisfactory but to those who keep in view the principles I have mentioned, and which are demonstrated by experience and observation.

An Aurora Borealis, without motion, is caused by the diffusion of the electric light, which is brilliant of itself, and which enlightens the neighbouring regions also by its splendor. This Aurora Borealis, or electric light,

will appear whenever those causes act which excite the electricity, whatever they may be, almost in certain respects, as fiery meteors depending upon this principle. It will appear under the form of a circular segment, because it tends towards the polar regions, where its rays seem to converge. The lower parts of the atmosphere, and the spherical polar segment of our globe, having almost the like figure, must determine the electric fluid, to assume the same, because it is attracted by those parts, or has a tendency towards them. The dark segment which is generally observed in the Aurora Borealis, is occasioned by the rays of electric light ending in those parts of the atmosphere which are lower than those in which they were produced, and as those parts are more dense and more heterogeneous, the rays pass through them as through so many conductors.

It is well known, by experience, that electric light does not flash, or appear in those bodies which transmit it, but only in the intervals which separate them. As all those substances, which are dispersed throughout the lower regions of the air, touch one another, there will be a continuity of conductors, and consequently the transmission of electric light will be without interruption; no light, therefore, will be seen in this part of the atmosphere. Besides, the figure of this obscure segment will be concentric to the luminous segment above, or that brilliant arch which constitutes the Aurora Borealis, because these mixt and conducting substances, which are equally dispersed throughout the atmosphere, according to the order of their specific gravities, are arranged circularly around the globe of the earth to which they tend, as so many converging rays.

The small clouds sometimes scattered around the horizon, and towards the north, which I have often observed in a large, bright Aurora Borealis, whether they are placed there

* History of the Conquest of Peru, b. iii. ch. ii.

by chance, or are collected by the electrical attraction, will still encrease as an accessory cause, the obscurity of the black segment, which will then have the appearance of a gulph, according to the expression of Aristotle, or of a ditch, according to others.

The obscure segment will appear larger or smaller, according to the elevation of the segment, or luminous arch above it. If the elevation of the latter be small, the former generally does not appear, whether the Aurora Borealis be motionless or not. However, it may happen, in the latter case, that the splendor of this phenomenon is so great, that the dark segment, notwithstanding its elevation, will not appear obscure, on account of the great quantity of light reflected; this effect then will be merely optical.

The columns of light, rays, luminous streams, and brilliant flashes, which seem to issue from every point of the obscure segment, or luminous arch, are radii, or rays of phosphoricoelectric light, which, proceeding from the upper regions, where it is more abundant, tends towards the lower, where its quantity is less, and flashes in the vacuum, that is to say, in the intermediate space. These streams of light appear to issue from the obscure segment of the luminous arch, because, from a vulgar prejudice, we believe that this light rises into the air, whilst, in reality, it darts towards the earth; a prejudice which will soon vanish, if we only reflect that it is impossible to distinguish the point from which luminous rays proceed, that move with great rapidity, and to know whether they diverge from a centre, or converge towards that point. If any one doubts the truth of what I here advance, I might mention, as a proof, that a spark which is seen between a conductor electrified by a globe of sulphur, and the finger of a person not insulated, appears to proceed from the globe, whilst it comes in reality from the finger; the sense of seeing is neither

so sure, nor active, as to know the origin of this motion.

These luminous columns, and streams of light, which dart forth in succession, being extinguished one instant, in order to appear the next with redoubled splendor, sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, as in an exhausted flask and glass tubes, will form the most variegated and magnificent spectacle that can be imagined; in a word, a brilliant Aurora Borealis. The intervals which must necessarily be found between different streams of light, converging towards an arch, will produce indentations, or obscure bands, which may be varied *ad infinitum*, and become more and more irregular, by the combination of this cause, with several other accidental circumstances; such, for example, as the clouds, of which we have already spoken.

Streams of light united towards the zenith, or which appear so, will represent a kind of dome, or pavilion, the optical effect of the real or apparent convergence of several rays of light. These luminous columns, and streams of light, agitated by different motions, according to the point of view under which they are seen, and these fleeting forms producing impressions, which cannot but be confounded with those that follow, will change several circumstances of this phenomenon into effects merely optico-electric. This is an observation to which philosophers seem hitherto to have paid too little attention. But the place where the greatest brilliancy and splendor will appear, will be towards the pole; because, as we have already proved, it is there where the electric fluid is most abundant, and has the greatest strength and energy, the centrifugal force being there not so powerful as towards the equator.

This beautiful phenomenon will appear to us to be very near the earth, although it may be, in reality, at a prodigious distance. The reason of this is, that, not being able to deter-

mine

mine the distance of very remote objects, but by means of intermediate bodies, the optical angles being nothing on these occasions, we judge that this luminous appearance is in the middle region of the air, because we discover no visible object between us and the place where the phenomenon appears, which, by trigonometrical calculation, is found to be at a very great distance from the surface of the earth. Several of these phenomena have been seen by different observers, in cities very remote one from the other, and consequently have had a sensible parallax. For example, the Aurora Borealis of September the 12th, 1621, observed by Gassendi in Provence, Bouillard at London, Galileo at Venice, and by others at Aleppo, in Syria; that of March the 17th, 1716, in the southern regions, and in the northern countries of Europe; and above all, that of October the 19th, 1726, which was seen at Peterburgh, Warsaw, Rome, Lisbon, &c. But from this sensible parallax, which the Aurora Borealis exhibits at different heights, it has been found, that the elevation of this phenomenon, at least in certain cases, is two hundred and sixty-six leagues at the lowest; and in others 300 leagues, even according to different methods of calculation. On this subject, the reader may consult the works of the illustrious Mairan. Euler, that eminent geometer, places the seat of the Aurora Borealis at a distance still greater; and, indeed, we can hardly refuse our assent to the proofs which trigonometrical calculations furnished to these learned men.

From the present explanation, and above all from the seventh principle, it must result, that the phenomenon of which we speak will appear at the southern as well as at the northern pole; and observation confirms the truth of this consequence.

From many observations of this kind, we shall select one which is re-

cent, and which has great weight, on account of the person who made it. The celebrated Cook saw an Aurora Australis in the year 1770, his vessel being to the south-west of Timor, and about six degrees south from the equator. On the 16th of September, at ten at night, this phenomenon rose about twenty degrees above the horizon; and its amplitude, or extent, was at least from ninety to an hundred: it had no motion or vibrations. The middle of the arch of this Aurora Australis was towards the south-south-east point of the horizon, and it continued to appear, without any diminution in the vivacity of its light, until after midnight. If this meteor has been less frequently observed at the southern than at the northern pole, it is because fewer navigators have sailed towards the former; but it is certain that the greater part of those who have remained any time in the southern hemisphere, and who have been in a latitude sufficiently high, have observed the Aurora Australis. Mr. Rosnevet saw one about the forty-ninth degree of latitude, which declined at least ten degrees from the south towards the east*.

If to all those proofs which I have given, we add the inferences that may be deduced from an increase of artificial electricity, during the appearance of an Aurora Borealis; from electrical sparks drawn from pointed rods insulated in the air; and from observations made on those meteors called falling stars, a kind of electrical phenomena, of which I have already spoken, we shall then have, I think, attained to the last degree of probable proof.

During the Aurora Borealis of the 29th of February, 1780, which I observed at Beziers, from about a quarter past six till a quarter past nine, the electrical machine was much stronger, and produced better sparks than it did several hours before the appearance of this phenomenon, al-

* The Laws of Magnetism, by Mr. Lemonnier, page 153.

though the wind was still the same; and these sparks seemed to be still stronger towards the middle, and particularly about the end of the phenomenon. I tried the strength of my electrophorus, which appeared also to be greater; and the electric phosphorus, animated by artificial electricity, became more brilliant than upon any other occasion. The mercury in the barometer stood at the height of twenty-eight inches one tenth, and Reaumur's thermometer at seven degrees and a half above the freezing point. I observed likewise, in the heavens, several of those meteors called falling stars.

During the Aurora Borealis of February the 15th, 1781, about half an hour after eight in the evening, I remarked also, that the power of the electrical machine was much stronger, as well as that of my electrophorus, and of the electric phosphorous, or exhausted flask.

Several philosophers besides, and among others Canton and Volta, have observed, that artificial electricity is much stronger than ordinary during the time of an Aurora Borealis. The latter expresses himself in the following words: "I once entertained great doubts, but at present I consider the thing as certain, and I can affirm that I have seen, and, as one may say, touched it with my hand. During that beautiful Aurora Borealis, which appeared in the night between the 28th and the 29th of July, 1780, the moment it reached the zenith, after rising gradually from the horizon, between the hours of four and five, according to the Italian method of reckoning, while it diffused a reddish light on all sides, through a serene sky, the wind being then pretty strong, several beautiful small bright sparks, accompanied with a crackling noise, were obtained from an ordinary atmospheric conductor by means of my condenser; whereas, at other times, and during serene weather, at whatever hour of the day or night the experiment was

made, the conductor, even when the condenser was added, produced no sparks, or at most one exceedingly small, the signs of electricity being entirely confined to the slight agitation of a very small pendulum. These observations, during the Aurora Borealis, of which I speak, were not made by me, but by Mr. Gattoni, one of my friends, with whom I often make experiments, and who has in his possession the conductor I now mention. As this conductor is neither very high, nor in an advantageous position, it seldom gives signs of electricity without the condenser, unless it be during the time of a storm, or a very heavy rain."

During the appearance of several of these phenomena, a magnetic needle has been observed to move very irregularly. The Abbé Hemmer, one of our ablest philosophers, has frequently remarked such agitations; and they were even so strong that he could judge by the motion of his needle whether there was an Aurora Borealis or not. Van Swinden, in like manner, frequently remarked the needle of his compass to have a very irregular motion during an Aurora Borealis.

Father Cotte often observed, at Montmorenci, a very sensible variation in a magnetic needle during the appearance of this phenomenon. On the 6th of March, 1771, the needle varied six minutes the same day; its variation was also very great during the whole month. On the 26th of March, 1773, there was a zodiacal light and an Aurora Borealis, and the magnetic needle experienced several variations. During that of the month of September, 1774, the needle varied seven minutes. On January the 21st, 1775, there was a beautiful Aurora Borealis, though without motion. In the morning of that day, a magnetic needle, ten inches in length, varied ten minutes towards the north, and one of five inches varied thirty. In September, 1776, the diurnal and periodical variation was very apparent from the 16th, on which

which day an Aurora Borealis appeared, preceded by very distinct lightning, the weather being then quite serene. On the 5th of March, 1777, there was an Aurora Borealis, and the needle that day and the following days approached more to the north than usual. On the 6th of April following, during the appearance of a small Aurora Borealis, the needle inclined towards the north ten minutes more than it had done for some time before. On the 22d of September, 1778, its inclination towards the north was still the same.

At Francker in Friesland, Mr. Van Swinden observed, a great number of times, the needle very violently agitated during the appearance of several of these phenomena.

Mr. Blondeau made the like observation at Brest. On the 7th of September, 1777, this gentleman remarked, during an Aurora Borealis, a very particular variation in a magnetic needle; in the morning he found its mean inclination to be three minutes towards the west, and next morning he observed it to be fifteen or sixteen towards the same point.

Mann often observed, at Newport, very sensible and irregular magnetic variations during the appearance of several of these large phenomena*. Father Weiss, a celebrated astronomer of Tyrnau, in Hungary, observed, on the 18th of January, 1770, an Aurora Borealis, and several considerable variations in the inclination of the magnetic needle.

Mr. Bergman also often observed that a great Aurora Borealis disturbed the direction of the magnetic needle†. Celsius and Hiorter perceived in the like manner, that the needle was disturbed and restless when the light of the Aurora Borealis rose to the zenith, or passed thence towards the southern part of the heavens, so that its declination seemed to follow this

light, and vary sometimes three or four degrees in the space of a few minutes.

Several philosophers, both in England and Germany, have been witnesses of the singular and curious variations which the needle experiences during the time of an Aurora Borealis. Mr. le Monier thinks it cannot be denied, that during this phenomenon the abundance of the electrical and magnetic fluids evidently appears; and that during the time of hurricanes, which generally follow an Aurora Borealis, both these fluids are still in action; and this, says he, may be proved either by electric points and needles, or with the needle of a compass*.

The celebrated Mr. de la Lande says also, in his excellent treatise upon astronomy, "the Aurora Borealis seems to have great affinity to the phenomena of electricity; it causes a sensible variation in the direction of the magnetic needle; electrifies insulated points, placed in large glass tubes; and we are assured, that a crackling noise has been heard during an Aurora Borealis, like that of electric sparks. According to the relation observed between the magnetic and electric matter, it would not be astonishing if the electric fluid should tend towards the north, and issue from the poles of the earth towards those parts, especially where there is the greatest abundance of minerals; in this case it might produce the Aurora Borealis."

I have several times observed variations in the needle during an Aurora Borealis, by means of apparatus which I had previously prepared for that purpose. With this design, having insulated several magnetic needles, I observed, during the Aurora Borealis, on the 29th of February, 1780, that they were agitated more than others of the same

* Memoirs of the Academy of Brussels, Vol. I. page 273.

† Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LII. Part II. Page 485.

‡ Laws of Magnetism, Page 116, 117.

length, which were not insulated. The method I took to insulate these needles, which were eight inches and three-tenths in length, was to place them upon a thick plate of glass, or a cake of resin, and in a glass box, ten inches and a half square. I made also another very conclusive experiment, and still relating to electricity. At each of the extremities of a magnetic needle of the same dimensions as the former, I ordered a small point to be made, inclined to the axis of the needle, and almost in the same manner as those small crosses or stars which are placed upon the prime conductor of an electrical machine, in order to be turned by the force of the electrical effluvia; and I observed in cases where the needle was insulated, that the variations were greater and more various than those of common needles. During the appearance of the Aurora Borealis of the 15th of February, 1781, about half an hour after eight in the evening, on repeating the same experiments, I observed the same result.

On the 27th of April, 1783, during a beautiful Aurora Borealis, which I observed at Paris, I remarked the like agitations in the common magnetic needle of a ship's compass. On the 29th, about three quarters after eight in the evening, there was a most brilliant Aurora Borealis, with two distinct arches, an obscure segment, and three or four luminous columns, but without any vibrations: whilst, in that of the 27th, a great agitation was observed in all the streams of light, which were numerous, and a strong undulating motion that formed one of the most beautiful spectacles I ever saw, though I have observed a great many phenomena of this kind.

If, to all these observations, we join those daily made, that the variations of the magnetic needle take place on days when the weather threatens a storm, as F. Cotte and several philosophers have observed, we cannot help concluding that the Aurora Borealis is a phenomenon of electricity.

**A RUSSIAN ANECDOTE CONCERNING EUDOXIA FEDOROWNA,
THE FIRST WIFE OF PETER THE GREAT.**

THE first duty of an historian, when he finds himself deceived, is to render to those of whom he has spoken, and particularly to sovereigns, that justice which may be due to them; and this duty becomes still more incumbent, if following bad memoirs, or animated by the spirit of party which prevailed at the time when he wrote, he rashly charges them with vices of which they may be innocent: for every author is responsible to posterity for the calumnies which he propagates, in case other writers, possessed of more acuteness, or better informed, shall convict him of ignorance or of falsehood. The following example is a

convincing proof of the truth of this observation.

The Czarina Eudoxia at first engaged and justly deserved all the affection of her husband; but, having observed a great coolness on the part of the prince, and having endured it a long time without venturing to complain, she was, at length, informed, that Menzikof, in order that he might more and more attract the affection of his master, had often engaged him in private parties, equally unbecoming a great prince, and contrary to the fidelity due to the marriage bed. Animated, therefore, with sentiments of just indignation against this favorite, "Infamous wretch," said she,

* Daughter of Fedor Abramowitz Lapuchin, of one of the oldest families in Russia. This Princess brought him a son the year following, who was not more fortunate than his mother.

one day to him, after having explained to him the cause of her grief, "dost thou pretend to be ignorant of what I now tell thee? I am informed, nor can I doubt the truth of my information, that you carry your master to visit those strumpets, to whom you formerly sold your cakes and your pies*." These words stung Menzikof so much the more, as people who have sprung from the dirt are generally very sensible of reproaches made them on account of their birth. From that moment, therefore, he formed a resolution of ruining the Empress.

As he knew that it would be difficult for him to destroy those impressions which the presence of the Czarina was capable of making upon the heart of her husband, he thought that the best method of giving effect to his vengeance was to wait for some favorable circumstance which might detain Peter at a distance from the Empress, until he had accomplished his design. The siege of Azoph happened soon after to favor his attempts both upon the mind and heart of his master. He knew so well how to take advantage of Peter's bad humor, proceeding from the inefficacy of his efforts to make himself master of that place, that he insensibly inspired him with suspicions against the Czarina, which he supported by the testimony of all those who were devoted to his interest, in such a manner, that Peter instead of returning to Moscow, as he intended, after having perceived that he was losing his troops, to no purpose, before Azoph, dispatched a courier to his uncle Leon Narcskin, with orders to put the Czarina in confinement; adding, that he would not leave Azoph until the same courier had brought him word that her head was shaven, and that she was shut up in a cloister. The unfortunate Princess, without being heard, and perhaps, without knowing her crime,

was, upon this, carried by force to the monastery of Sutelski, at the distance of thirty leagues from Moscow, from which she was not liberated till the reign of Peter II. that is to say, till thirty years after her disgrace, the cause of which, as afterwards appeared, was only the effect of her love for her husband, and of her resentment against Menzikof.

Voltaire is the only author who believes that she was put away for adultery, as Motray has remarked; for this Princess was never suspected, nor accused of this crime but by those who were interested; and Russia still bears testimony to her memory.

This celebrated writer, no doubt, was misinformed; but his works are in the hands of every body, and his testimony has so much weight, that it becomes necessary to render to the innocent victim of an unworthy favorite that justice, which she had a right to expect from posterity. We must add, that this implacable enemy of Eudoxia, not contented with involving the mother in so much disgrace, extended his vengeance even to her son, the Czarowitz Alexis Petrowitz, whose misfortunes have made so much noise in the world. This young Prince had at first an excellent preceptor, who perhaps might have corrected, or, at least, insensibly softened that vicious disposition which his pupil seemed to have received from nature: but Menzikof soon found pretences sufficiently specious for discharging this man, and taking upon himself the care of the young Prince's education. Naturally forward and rude, and equally desirous of gratifying his hatred against the mother of the Czarowitz, as of pleasing Catherine, the second wife of the Czar, by whom she had a son, the perfidious Menzikof treated his pupil with the utmost contempt. This discouraged him so much, and vitiated his heart, that he soon became

* It is well known, that Menzikof, when a boy, used to cry cakes and pies through the streets; but, having had the good fortune to please his sovereign, he was admitted by the Czar into the highest degree of favor.

as indolent and brutal as he was effeminate.

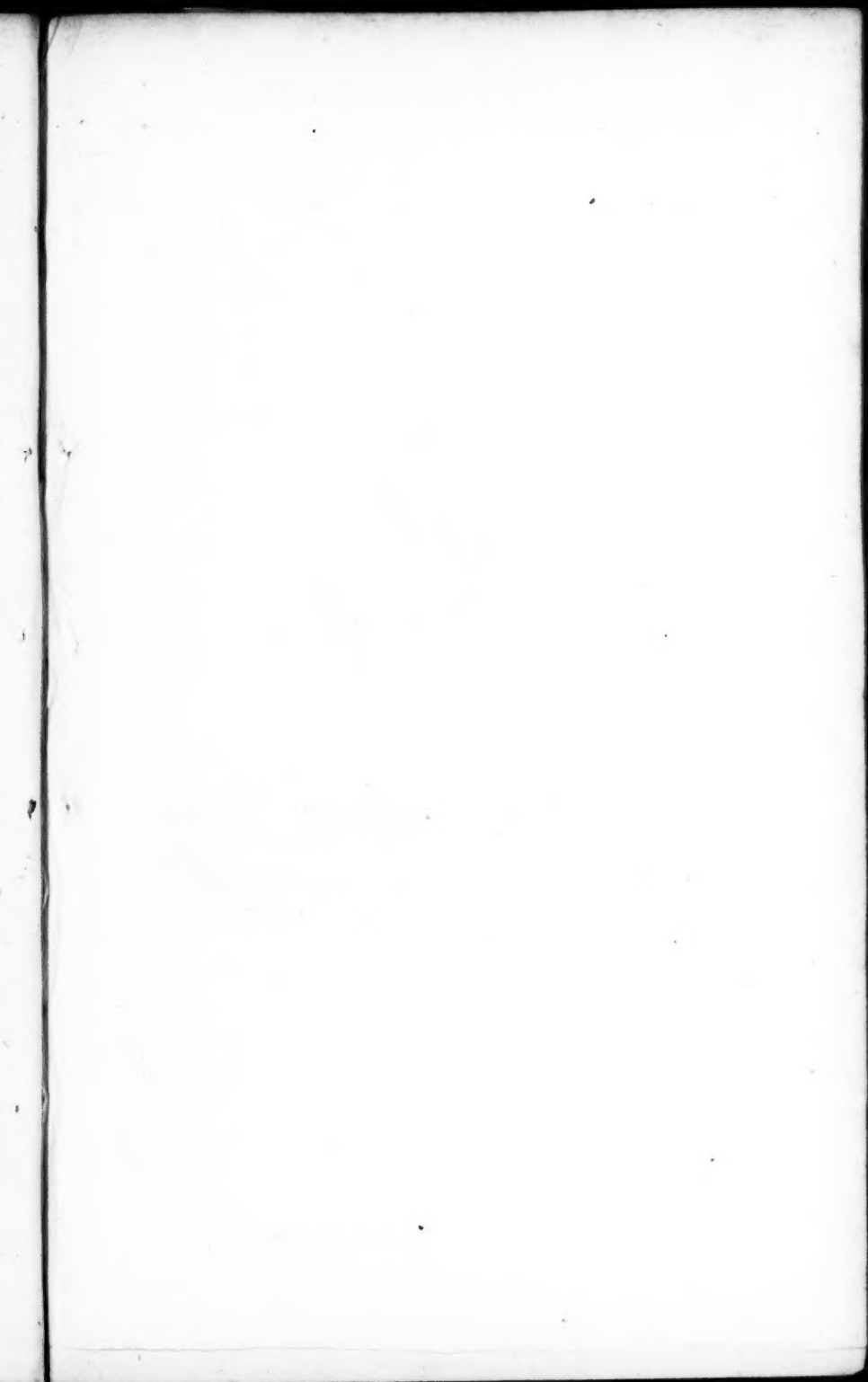
We have still a farther proof of the villainy of Menzikof. When the Czarowitz returned from Naples to Russia, upon a promise which his father had given him in writing, that no attempt should be made against his life, the confidence of the young Prince had so far touched the Czar, that he publicly shewed the most favorable disposition towards him. But Menzikof had sufficient power over his master to extinguish the remains of paternal affection, and to incense him so much, as to make him forget the pro-

mise he had made of forgiving the Czarowitz for absconding, if on his return he shewed himself obedient to his orders. A weakness equally strange and barbarous, which his partizans have vainly attempted to justify, by an equivocation as ridiculous as it is absurd, and which had no more effect upon people of sense, than all the efforts which have since been made to persuade the public, that the death of the Czarowitz was entirely owing to his being suddenly struck with terror, when he read the sentence which was passed against him.

MISCELLANEOUS ANECDOTES.

MR. Vaillant, the celebrated antiquarian, having embarked at Marseilles, with several other French gentlemen, in a vessel belonging to Leghorn, in order to go to Rome, was taken the second day after his departure by an Algerine corsair. As the King of France was not then at war with the Dey, Mr. Vaillant and his companions flattered themselves that the Algerines would set them at liberty, and put them again on shore, as had been done upon several recent occasions; but the Captain excused himself, by pretending that he was too far from the French coast, and that he had no provisions but what were absolutely necessary for his return. The Algerines, therefore, stripped him as well as the rest, crying out, *bona pace Francesi*, and carried them to Algiers, where they were treated as slaves. The French Consul requested that they might be set at liberty, but in vain. The Dey insisted upon detaining them, in the room of eight Algerines, who he said were in the king's galleys, and whose liberty he could not obtain. However, after being four months and a half in this disagreeable situation, Mr. Vaillant was permitted to return to France. Twenty gold medals, which had been taken from him were restored, and he embarked in a small vessel, bound for

Marseilles. After sailing two days, with a favorable wind, the captain spied a Sallee rover advancing towards them by the help of its oars, and though he used every manœuvre, in order to escape, the pirate soon got within cannon shot. Mr. Vaillant, who was much alarmed for the medals he had recovered at Algiers, swallowed them without hesitation; but a brisk wind springing up, soon carried him clear of the pirate, and drove the vessel upon the coast of Catalonia, where it was in great danger of being lost. After this, the French captain entangled himself among the shoals and sand banks at the mouth of the Rhone, where he lost his anchors, and Mr. Vaillant having got into the boat, with some difficulty reached the neighbouring shore. The medals which he had swallowed, and which weighed about four or five ounces, incommoded him much. He consulted two physicians what method he ought to pursue, in order to recover them. The case appeared singular; and, as they did not agree in opinion, Mr. Vaillant took no medicine. Nature, however, gave him relief from time to time, and he had recovered the half of his treasure when he arrived at Lyons. In that city he went to visit a virtuoso, who was one of his friends, to whom he related his adventures, and



LITERARY MAGAZINE & BRITISH REVIEW.



EXPLORATOR.

Published as the Act directs 1 Dec. 1788 by C Ferster N° 41 Pall-mall.

and he did not forget to mention the circumstance of the medals. He shewed him those which he had recovered, and described those which he expected. Among the latter was an Otho, which his friend was very desirous of having. He requested Mr. Vaillant to part with it for a certain sum. Mr. Vaillant complied, on account of the singularity of the circumstance, and very luckily he was that day enabled to fulfil his engagement*.

People generally retain, to the last moment of their lives, that ruling passion which influenced their actions during life. Mr. De Lagny, of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, who was a great calculator, having become insensible in his last illness, Mr. Mauteruis approached his bed, and endeavoured to rouse him a little, by calling out, "Mr. Lagny, what is the square of twelve?" "An hundred and forty-four," replied Mr. Lagny, and soon after expired.

Francis I. obtained a brief from the Pope, by which all the clergy of France were obliged to shave, or to pay a certain sum for having the right of wearing a beard. The bishops and beneficed clergy readily paid the tax, but the poor ecclesiastics were reduced to the necessity of parting

with this ornament of the chin; however, according to the statutes of some churches, the bishop himself could not perform service without laying aside his beard, and of this Duprat was a remarkable example. This prelate, son of the chancellor of the same name, had one of the most beautiful beards in the kingdom; he had just returned, full of glory, from the Council of Trent, where he had displayed his eloquence, and distinguished himself by his writings, when he was appointed to the bishoprick of Clermont. On Easter Sunday he came to take possession; but when he appeared at the cathedral, with a design of performing service, he found the doors shut. Three dignitaries of the Chapter were waiting for him at the entrance, one of whom held a razor, another a pair of scissars, and the third a book, containing the ancient statutes of the church, in which he pointed out with his finger these words, *barbis rasis*, no beards. Duprat in vain represented, that it was not proper to do any work upon so solemn a day; two of these gentlemen held their weapons in a threatening posture; to save his beard, therefore the bishop was obliged to take to his heels, and to abandon his see, and grief soon after put an end to his days.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE STATUE CALLED EXPLORATOR.

THIS statue, called by the Italians *l'Arrotino*, that is the *Knife-grinder*, is supposed by some to have been erected by the Roman senate, in honor of a person of mean extraction, who, while employed in the exercise of his profession, overhearing some of Cataline's associates conversing together concerning their conspiracy, immediately gave information, and by these means saved the Republic. This appears, however, to be a popular report. Sallust, an historian of great veracity, ascribes the honor of that discovery to a Roman lady,

named Fulvia, with whom Quintus Curius, one of the conspirators, carried on an intrigue. Had any other information been given respecting this plot, so accurate an historian as Sallust would not have failed to mention it.

Others have imagined that this statue represents the Augur Attus Nævius going to cut a stone before Tarquinius Priscus;† and some, that it represents the slave Millicus, who discovered the conspiracy of his master Scevinus to Nero; but it is more probable that it is the production of

* This singular anecdote is taken from the History of the Academy of Inscriptions.

† See Livy, b. i. ch. 36.

some celebrated Grecian artist, who intended only to exhibit a beautiful specimen of his skill in sculpture.

As we are much in the dark with respect to this figure, conjecture must supply the want of information; but whatever may have been the author's intention, it is certainly an admirable piece of workmanship, and cannot fail to engage the attention of those

who are judges of expression, and of true proportion.

This statue was formerly to be seen in the gardens of the Villa de Medicis, near Rome; at present it is in the gallery of the Grand Duke, at Florence. There is an excellent model of it, as large as the original, in one of the apartments belonging to the Royal Academy, Somerset Place.

SOME PARTICULARS RESPECTING MR. THUMBERG'S TRAVELS IN JAPAN.

THE man who can with insensibility survey the astonishing variety of objects which compose the universe, who has never had the curiosity to observe the different marks by which they are distinguished and characterised, and whose thoughts are entirely confined to himself, will behold, no doubt, with as little pity as terror, the botanist clambering over the summits of rugged rocks, and enduring the scorching heat of the sun, thirst, and hunger, in order to discover a new shrub, or braving a thousand dangers, renewed at every step, in a foreign and barbarous country, to bring back a few seeds, or some dried plants. Those, however, who are initiated into the mysteries of nature, who consider themselves as born not merely for themselves, and who have an ardent desire for the advancement of science, will entertain sentiments of a different kind. Of all the sciences, none is more engaging than botany; but it has been remarked, at the same time, that no science can boast of so many martyrs. A long list might indeed be made of all the botanists who have perished, or been exposed to the greatest hardships, in foreign countries, into which they penetrated with a design of discovering new vegetables and curious plants. Of the truth of this observation, the following instances will afford a sufficient proof.

L'Ecluse, the father of true botany, in the sixteenth century, broke his

arm in crossing the Pyrenean mountains. Some years after he fractured his leg. Not discouraged, however, by these accidents, he undertook a third journey to the Alps of Tirol, where, happening to fall from a precipice, he broke his thigh; and this accident rendered him lame during the remainder of his life.

Father Plumier, after having twice traversed America, after having enriched the science of botany with several new genera, and a multitude of species, fell a sacrifice to an inflammation of the breast, brought on by the hardships he suffered during his travels.

Hasselquist, the disciple of the celebrated Linnæus, resolved to travel into Egypt and Palestine, countries till then unknown to naturalists, where, in the space of a few years, he determined all the species of those plants which form part of our most valuable medicines. By his care and attention, many of the vegetable productions of Egypt and Palestine are as well known as those of Europe. Nothing escaped his sagacity; but this eminent man, after having been several times in great danger from the barbarians, on his return to Europe, through Syria, was attacked by a phtisical disorder, which put a period to his life, at the age of thirty-seven.

Joseph de Jussieu, sent to Peru by order of Louis XV. excited the jealousy of some Spaniards, who, after having several times attempted his life, made

made him at length fall a victim to the effects of a most terrible poison, which entirely destroyed his faculties. He appeared afterwards in a most deplorable condition, and had not the least remembrance of his journey.

Commerſon, whose enterprising genius made him brave every danger, after having collected the productions of almost the whole world, lost his life in Asia, without having the consolation of publishing his discoveries.

Gmelin was killed by the Tartars, when traversing the wild rocks of Siberia and Mount Altai.

Pollich, so well known by his excellent History of the Plants of the Palatinate, in crossing the marshes of that country, was attacked by a fever, which conducted him to the grave.

The Count de Matsuka, to whom we are indebted for a work on the plants of Silesia, contracted, upon the mountains of that country, a disorder of the breast, which snatched him prematurely from his friends, from the sciences, and from letters.

Scheuchzer, after having several times climbed the highest cliffs of the Alps, when endeavouring, on his return, to examine the petrified trunk of a tree, was seized with a spitting of blood, which carried him off in the prime of life.

Mr. Sonini de Manoncourt, lately returned from Lower Egypt, to which he was sent by order of the King of France, to examine the different curious productions of the three kingdoms, was twice severely beaten, robbed, and stripped by the barbarians of that country.

But of all the botanists who have travelled into remote countries, none

seems to have been inflamed with a more ardent desire for making new discoveries than Mr. Thumberg, known by his *Flora Japonica*,* published at Leipsic, in the year 1784.—

This botanist, after having taken his degree, as doctor, at Upsal, in 1770, under Professor Sidren, resolved to visit France, and to reside there a year, for the purpose of finishing his studies, and acquiring fresh knowledge. Having stopped some weeks at Amsterdam, he saw the celebrated Mr. Burmann,† who soon discovered his skill in botany, and his great fondness for that useful science. He remarked above all, the great desire which Mr. Thumberg testified of travelling into India, or into any other country little frequented by the literati of Europe, and of which the natural productions had not been described.

Mr. Burman, who thought that the sciences might derive great benefit from Mr. Thumberg's thirst for knowledge, engaged several opulent magistrates to send him, at their own expence, to Japan, a country, the productions of which were unknown, and which, in its climate, has a great resemblance to Holland. These generous republicans, whose names ought not to be forgotten, were Mr. Vry Temmink, Consul of Amsterdam, and Commissary of the medicinal garden; Mr. Van-der Poll, a Consul also; and Messrs. John Van-der Deutz, and David ten Hoven, both Senators. They commissioned Mr. Thumberg to collect in Japan, for the medicinal garden of Amsterdam, and for their own private gardens, seeds of all kinds of plants in general, and parti-

* Caroli Petri Thumberg, &c. *Flora Japonica, sistens plantas insularum Japonicarum secundum systema sexuale emendatum, redactas ad viginti classes, ordines, genera et species cum differentis specificis, synonymis paucis, descriptionibus concinnis et triginta novem iconibus adjectis.* Lipsiæ in Bibliopoli, J. G. Mulleri, anno 1784. 8vo.

† Nicolas-Lawrence Burmann, M. D. Professor of Botany at Amsterdam, a gentleman possessed of a most extensive library, and of a curious and valuable cabinet of natural history. This learned man is known by his Dissertation on the *Geranium*, and his *Flora Indica*, published in 1768, in quarto. He is the son of John Burmann, to whom we are indebted for the *Theſaurum Ceylanicum*, and the *Decades variarum Plantarum Asiaticarum*, as well as for editions of Rhumphius and the posthumous figures of Plumier. The family of these two physicians is celebrated for two critics of the same name, who published editions of some of the classical authors.

cularly shrubs, and slips for transplanting, which might be capable of enduring the severity of our climates, and of subsisting in winter in the open air.

The knowledge of the Dutch language was absolutely necessary for Mr. Thumberg, in order to profit by residing in Japan, a country shut against every nation in the world, where one port only is left open, into which no more than two Dutch vessels are suffered to enter annually, and a few Chinese junks. The Japanese, therefore, admit every year about two hundred Europeans only, who are kept closely shut up, and carefully watched, and nearly the same number of Chinese. All these strangers are obliged to depart exactly at the end of three or four months, except a very small number, whose residence is fixed in the country. It was settled, that Mr. Thumberg should remain some time at the Cape of Good Hope, that he might acquire a perfect knowledge of the Dutch language. By these means he had his desires fully gratified, and was enabled to enlarge his knowledge of botany. After residing at the Cape three years, he departed in 1775 for Java, where he embarked in a Dutch vessel, and arrived in the same year at Japan.

The factory of the Dutch Company at Japan is situated in a small island, named Dezima, near the city of Nangasaki, which is the only place of the kingdom where foreign vessels are suffered to come into harbour.—This island is enclosed by a long wall, in which there are only two gates, well guarded. No European can enter them, or go out, without permission, without being attended by a numerous guard, and without being twice or thrice searched in the strictest manner. Three or four times in a year, the Europeans obtain leave from the Japanese Governor to enter the city, and to visit the neighbouring temples, but they must always be accompanied by a certain number of the inhabitants of the country.

From this account it may be easily

perceived, that the most zealous botanist cannot find any opportunity there of making excursions into the country, Mr. Thumberg, however, did every thing in his power to procure the friendship of the Japanese officers and interpreters, who came almost every day to the factory, to be present at the unloading of the vessels. He offered them presents, and rendered them every service he could. Having had the good fortune to cure some of them, they were induced to ask him several questions respecting medicine, as well as other sciences, to all which he returned the most satisfactory answers. By this attention he won their confidence, and, in some measure, obtained his desire. The interpreters collected plants for him in the neighbourhood of Nangasaki, and the officers prevailed upon the Governor to give him leave to make some botanical excursions to the mountains which surround the city, but always accompanied by guides and interpreters.

This permission gave him much joy, but he was in great danger of paying dear for it, and of being more closely confined than ever. The Japanese, who are the most suspicious people in the world, dare not grant any new liberties to the Europeans; they can only obtain those which appear by the ancient annals to have been given before. Mr. Thumberg requested that these annals might be consulted on his account. It was found that some years before, when the factory were in want of medicines, a Dutch surgeon had been permitted to traverse some of the mountains in the neighbourhood of Nangasaki, for the purpose of collecting medicinal plants. The governor did not then hesitate to grant the like indulgence to Mr. Thumberg; but, having again read the annals with more attention, he remarked that the Dutch surgeon was of an inferior rank; and he concluded, that he must not act in the same manner to Mr. Thumberg, whose rank was much higher. This trifling circumstance,

cumstance, as is the case with many others, appeared of the highest importance to the suspicious Japanese*.

Mr. Thumberg, however, did not lose courage; he had address enough to inform the Japanese, that the company's principal surgeons always passed through every degree of rank before they arrived at the highest; and that they were promoted only in cases of death. These and some other reasons had the desired effect with the Governor; but three months had already elapsed, and the autumn was advancing, when that permission, which he so much desired, was granted him. That year he could only collect some seeds which he sent to Europe, and make a few botanical excursions every week till the end of autumn.

In the following year, he resumed his labor, which he continued during the whole summer and a part of autumn. In his travels, he collected a great number of rare and curious plants, but not without being subjected to great expence, and to many hardships. He was obliged to maintain the guides and interpreters who attended him, as well as their domestics, amounting in all to about twenty or thirty persons. It always cost him sixteen or eighteen crowns each time. Without reckoning the hardships which he was obliged to endure in a country covered with mountains, we may say few plants or seeds have been purchased at so dear a rate.

Mr. Thumberg, however, found means to collect some other plants without trouble or expence. The Dutch hired Japanese, whom they employed in bringing fodder for their cattle. This Mr. Thumberg carefully inspected every time it was brought in, and picked from it several curious plants. Besides this, two Japanese physicians, Kafragawa Fo-

sin and Nakagawa Sunnam, who were well acquainted with mineralogy, zoology, botany, and medicine, gave him various objects of natural history, and told him their names in the language of the country. Some time before his departure, he embraced an opportunity, which occurred, of visiting some other islands near to Nangasaki. In the autumn of the year 1776, he was at length obliged, with great regret, to quit Japan, from which he proceeded to the Island of Ceylon, in order to pursue his botanical researches. On his return to Europe, he was called to the office of lecturer in botany at Upsal. Soon after he was appointed professor royal in the room of Linnæus, the son, who was then on his travels, and who died not long after. In the year 1780, therefore, he was placed in that famous chair which had been successively filled by the great Linnæus and his son, in an university where only ten years before he had taken the degree Doctor. Since that time, he has occasionally communicated to the public several curious particulars respecting the knowledge which he acquired in his travels, and has published some excellent memoirs among those of the Academy of Sciences at Upsal, and of other learned societies. His *Flora Japonica*, above all, has met with the highest approbation. In perusing it, one is astonished to see that in less than sixteen months, notwithstanding the continual restraint under which he was kept by the jealousy of the Japanese, he has discovered and described more than three hundred new species of plants, part of which have obliged him to establish twenty new genera. It is well known, that in the supplement to plants published by Linnæus the son, in 1781, there are more than nine hundred new species communicated by Mr. Thumberg alone.

* Nothing can be a stronger evidence of the suspicious temper of the Japanese, than the restraints under which they keep the Dutch. As soon as they come into port, their masts, sails, rudder, guns, and ammunition are carried on shore, and retained there, securely locked up, till their departure.

A PSALM, CHANTED BY THE JEWS OF LANDAW* AT THE TIME
OF THE CONSECRATION OF LOUIS XVI.

I WILL now sing the praises of my well-beloved king, Louis XVI. The just shall flourish like the palm-tree, and shall multiply like the cedar of Lebanon.

Thou surpasses in beauty the children of men; a wonderful grace is diffused over thy lips: God, therefore, shall bless thee to all eternity.

Signalize thyself by thy glory and goodness; may thy reign be crowned with success and prosperity.

The Queen hath placed herself on thy right hand, clothed in raiment of gold, and surrounded by divers ornaments.

Neither gold nor chrystal can be compared to her: she shall not be given in exchange for vessels of fine gold.

She hath opened her mouth to wisdom; the law of mercy is upon her tongue.

Thy queen shall be in thy palace like the fruitful vine; thy princes shall be around thy table like the young olive trees.

Thou art more valuable than gold and precious stones; yea, milder than honey, and the honey-comb.

Behold how good and agreeable it is for brethren to live in harmony and unity together.

Observe my precepts; and thy peace shall be like a river, and thy justice like the waves of the sea.

The Lord shall preserve thy repose; he will fill thy soul with splendor: thou shalt be like a garden always well watered, and like a fountain, whose stream is never dried up.

Great God! thou wilt add days to those of Louis XVI. our king: thou wilt lengthen his years, even to the day of the generation of generations.

Thy throne shall be a lasting throne; the sceptre of thy kingdom shall be a sceptre of justice.

As the new heavens, and the new earth, which I am going to create, shall subsist always before me, saith the Lord; so thy name and thy race shall subsist for ever and ever.

The race of thy servants shall possess it; and those who love my name shall their establish their dwelling.

Princes shall be born of thee; I will establish them kings over all the earth.

Their posterity shall be known to the nations; their posterity shall extend themselves among the people; and all those who shall behold them, shall acknowledge them as the race whom heaven and the Lord have blessed.

Thou shalt then sing songs, as on the eve of a solemn festival, and thy heart shall rejoice with joy.

Lord, I will praise thee with all my heart, in the society of the just, and in the assembly of the people.

The following is the PRAYER, which was recited upon the same occasion:

GREAT God, Lord, and Sovereign Master of the Universe, thou, who art the father of all created beings, the protector of truth, and the support of the power of kings, the just God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, deign to hear the prayers of thy people of Israel, who at this moment invoke thee, and prostrate themselves at the foot of thy throne: exalt in thy name and glory the name of our king, Louis XVI. lately consecrated; preserve his august family; grant him happy days, and length of years, amidst wisdom and perfect health; elevate his kingdom to the sun, and make it shine like the stars in the firmament. Secure his crown even to eternity, for the strength of kings is in thee alone.

* A city of Alsace, about fourteen leagues north-east of Strasburgh. Landaw was formerly an imperial city; but it was ceded to France by the peace of Munster.

Almighty Lord, God of heaven and earth; thou who didst preserve David, thy faithful servant, from all the persecutions of his enemies, and didst shield his head from the sword that threatened it; thou, who didst open a passage through the sea, and didst make a way through the waves to thy people, deign to preserve, bless, and rejoice the heart of our new monarch, Louis XVI. exalt him above all the kings of the earth; by thy mercy and infinite power prolong his

life beyond that of any of his forefathers, unclouded by adversity, through a long and happy reign; assist him to surmount every danger, and to put his enemies under the soles of his feet, by prospering him in all his undertakings.

God of mercy and goodness, King of kings, give to our's a heart filled with equity and mercy, in order that he may govern and rule thy people with mildness and clemency, during the course of his reign, even to an happy eternity. Amen.

MEMOIR ON PLANTS WHICH EMIT LIGHT; BY MR. HAGGE, REN, LECTURER ON NATURAL HISTORY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE SWEDISH.

IN the year 1783, having accidentally perceived a faint light on the marigold, *calendula officinalis*, I resolved to observe this curious phenomenon with the greatest attention. In order that I might be certain that it was not an illusion, I stationed a man near me, whom I ordered to make a signal as soon as he should observe the luminous appearance; I always found that we both saw the light at the same instant.

This light is most visible in marigolds of a deep orange tint, and almost imperceptible in those of a pale color.

This light may be often seen three or four times successively upon the same flower; but oft-times it is not perceived till after some minutes, and if it happens that several flowers growing near one another emit this light at the same time, it may be observed at a considerable distance.

This phenomenon is observed in the months of July and August, at sun set, and half an hour after the atmosphere has become clear; when the atmosphere is full of moist vapors, or when it has rained during the day, nothing of this kind can be perceived. The following flowers exhibit this luminous appearance in a greater or less degree, and in the following order. First, the marigold; secondly,

the capuchin, *tropaeolum majus*; thirdly, the red lilly, *lilium bulbiferum*; fourthly, the Indian pink, *tagetes patula et erecta*; I have remarked it also sometimes upon the sun flower, *helianthus annuus*; but a deep orange color is in general necessary for the appearance of this light, because I have never observed it upon flowers of any other color.

To be certain that this phenomenon was not occasioned by small insects, or phosphoric worms, I examined the flowers with the greatest attention, by the help of a microscope, but I never was able to discover any.

From the celerity of the appearance of this phenomenon, we may, I think, be allowed to conclude, that there is something of electricity in it; we know that at the moment when the pistil of a flower has acquired its maturity, the pollen bursts out by its elasticity; this inclined me to believe that electricity even was connected with this elasticity; but after having observed the light upon the red lilly, where the antheræ are at a great distance from the petals, I found that the light proceeded from the petals, and not from the antheræ. On this account therefore, I am induced to think, that this electric light is caused by the pollen, which upon bursting, throws itself every where over the petals.

METHOD

METHOD OF ENGRAVING UPON GLASS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

FOR this method of engraving upon glass, we are indebted to Mr. Puymaurin, junior, who, in a memoir respecting the properties of sparry acid, or acid of fluor, published in the *Journal de Physique* for June last, after mentioning several experiments relating to the dissolving qualities of this acid, tells us, that being convinced it would have the same effect upon glass as aquafortis and other acids have upon copper and various substances, he resolved to make a trial of it. Having spread a thin coat of wax over a piece of glass, he traced out some figures upon it, covered the whole with acid of fluor, and exposed it to the sun. At the end of four or five hours, he detached the coat of wax, when he perceived, with great pleasure, that his conjectures had been well founded; and he is certain that by the help of this sparry acid, an intelligent artist may engrave upon the hardest glass or

chrystal in the same manner as upon copper with aquafortis.

We may easily see of what utility this discovery of Mr. Puymaurin may be, either in polishing glass, &c. or to graduate certain instruments, the graduated parts of which have been hitherto made of wood, the effect of which is always uncertain.

Thick massy plates of glass may, perhaps, be employed hereafter for engraving maps, &c. One advantage would attend them—they would never wear; all the proofs would have the same strength, and these plates might be handed down to posterity without any fear of their being destroyed by rust. The first attempt to engrave upon glass, by means of sparry acid, was made at Thoulouse, on May 17, 1787, by Mr. Puymaurin, and the result of his experiments were published in the memoirs of the Academy of Sciences of that city.

A SPANISH SONG, ENTITLED ORPHEUS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE WORKS OF DON IGNACIO DE LUZAN.

ORPHEUS, of Thrace, went down to Hell to seek for his wife; never could a more foolish desire conduct him to a more dismal place.

He there sung, and astonishment suspended the punishment of the damned: yes, the novelty of his design produced this effect, rather than the harmony of his song.

The gloomy monarch of Hell, redoubling his severity, thought he could inflict no punishment upon him more terrible than to suffer him to carry back his spouse.

He restored her, therefore, to punish his audacity; but, as a reward

for his musick, he facilitated the means of his losing her again.

This song seems to have furnished J. B. Rousseau with the idea of the following Epigram, which we have transcribed in the original, for the entertainment of our readers.

Quand pour ravoïr son épouse Euridice
Le bon Orphée alla jusque'aux Enfers,
L'étonnement d'un si rare caprice
En fit cesser tous les tourmens divers.
On admira, bien plus que ses concerts,
D'un tel amour la bizarre faillie;
Et Pluton même, embarrassé du choix,
La lui rendit pour prix de sa folie,
Puis la retint en faveur de sa voix.

REVIEW

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

FOREIGN.

LA CHASSE AU FUSIL DIVISE EN DEUX PARTIES, &c. *A Treatise on Shooting; in two Parts. Containing, first, Researches respecting the Weapons used in Hunting before the Invention of Fire-arms; an Account of the Manner of making these Arms in Paris, the different Manufactories in France and in Spain; with Rules for learning to shoot well. Secondly, Necessary Instructions respecting the different Kinds of Game found in France, the Method of training Dogs, &c. &c.* Octavo. Paris. 1788.

THIS work appears to us worthy of a favorable reception, particularly from those who are fond of the sports of the field. The author (Mr. Magné de Marolles) is already known, by a small treatise upon the same subject, entitled, "An Essay on Shooting;" published in 1781, and republished the year following. The success of this essay gives us reason to preface favorably of the complete work, which he has now given to the public. It appears to be the production of an author, possessed of such knowledge as can be acquired only by long practice and experience. It besides contains a particular account of the methods of hunting several animals little known, and which have not been hitherto described. But that our readers may be better enabled to judge whether we have exaggerated in our account of this volume, we shall lay before them the following extracts.

There are, says the author, some castors in the Rhone, particularly from Avignon as far as Pont-Saint-Espirit; for it is said, that they are not to be found in any other part of the river. There are also some in the Cèze and the Gardon,

two rivers which discharge themselves into the Rhone; the first near Caderouffe, and the second opposite Valabregues; but there are none found in the Cèze but to the distance of half a league from its mouth going up. With regard to the Gardon, they occupy a much larger extent. They may be found from its mouth as far as the height of Vezénobres, which is at the distance of eight leagues. These animals (known under the name of *biveres* in the ancient language) do not assemble there, in order to form societies, as those of North America. They live solitary and dispersed, each digging its own habitation under the banks of the river; on which account they are called *burrowing castors*; to distinguish them from those which do not live in the earth. The entrance of these subterranean habitations is always in the water, at the bottom of a high and steep bank, and very often in places where there are trees, the roots of which may serve to conceal them. They have always the foresight to dig them upwards. A foot or two above the ordinary height of the water, there is a small chamber, about four feet in diameter, where the castor takes up its lodging; then a passage of some feet in length, which ends at another chamber a little higher; then a third, a fourth, and sometimes a fifth story, to be ready against any sudden rising of the river. These chambers are strewed with small bits of wood, split as thin as carpenters shavings, and it is upon these shavings that the castor reposes. Above the highest chamber there is a hole rising to the earth, to give air to the whole, and by which the castor escapes during an inundation. There are two situations in which these animals find themselves very much embarrassed; during a great drought, when the entrance of their hole is left dry and uncovered; and in the time of inundations, when the river overflows its banks. In the latter case, they are obliged to abandon their habitations. It is thought, that in this distressing extremity, they retire to the most elevated places of the islands of the Rhone, and sometimes to heaps of wood. As they are then wandering, and expose themselves more during the day, for at any other time they come forth only in the night, the hunters pursue them on the water in boats, in or-

der to shoot them, which they do with more ease, since, like the otter, they cannot remain long at the bottom, and are obliged to rise above the water now and then for the purpose of breathing. This manner of hunting is however very laborious, and rarely succeeds, as the boat, which is hurried along by the force of the current, cannot follow the castor in its different turnings; and besides this, when the animal finds itself pursued, it shews itself as seldom as possible.

It sometimes happens, during a great drought, that the entrance of the burrow being left dry, and almost above water, by enlarging the hole at the surface of the earth dogs may be let in, which oblige the castors to make their escape towards the river, where the hunters wait for them with their pieces ready; but oftener with sticks to knock them down, taking the precaution also to spread out a net in the water, before the entrance of the burrow, in case they should miss the animal on its first coming out of the hole.—Others, when they discover a castor's burrow, dig up the earth, still following the passage; when the castor, frightened, endeavours to fly, and is either shot or caught in a net; but it happens sometimes, that it cuts the net with its teeth, and makes its escape.

In general, the castor is seldom hunted with a success. Some of them however are killed by lying in wait for them at night, in places where they go to eat the bark of the willow, on which they feed, and which grows in great abundance in the islands of the Rhone, and on the banks of the Cese, and the Gardon. After having cut off the branches, they commonly drag them to some neighbouring gravel-pits, in order to peel off the bark, and it is in these gravel-pits that the hunters wait for them. There was formerly at Valabregues, as I have been told, a man very dextrous at this manner of hunting, and who frequently killed numbers of these animals, both in the places where they cut down the branches, as well as in the gravel-pits, where they went to feed on them.

The weight of the castor of the Rhone, is generally about fifty or sixty pounds, that is to say, equal to that of the American. The flesh of this castor is much esteemed, especially when the animal is young, and does not weigh above thirty pounds.—These burrowing castors, the furs of which are inferior in beauty to those of castors living in society, being cut on the back by their continual rubbing against the earth, are not peculiar to the old Continent; some of them are found also in the new, and they form even at present, the bulk of the species; for since the Europeans have extended their settlements

in the vast regions of North America, and built forts and habitations on the lakes, and rivers, there scarcely exists any of those well-ordered republics of castors, living together in commodious dwellings constructed upon stakes in the midst of the waters. These animals, having become by the value which the Europeans set upon their skins, an object of great importance to the natives of the country, were harassed and tormented without ceasing, so that they have dispersed themselves, and withdrawn as much as they could from that state of continual war, and each individual has taken shelter under the earth.

It is well known, that the woodcock is a bird of passage, which generally arrives about the beginning of October; that this passage takes place sooner or later in certain years, according to the weather and the winds which prevail on the commencement of autumn, and that the east and north-east are the winds which bring most, especially when they are accompanied with fogs.

It is very uncommon, says the author, to see woodcocks newly arrived towards the end of September; yet I saw one killed on the 12th of September, 1773, in the neighbourhood of Evreux, in Normandy, where I then was, by a countryman, who being out shooting, fired into a flock of fifty or sixty of these birds, which flew directly over his head. I can attest this fact, as I had the woodcock in my hands, and spoke to the person who killed it. From this circumstance, I shall take the liberty of observing, that Buffon is mistaken, when he says, in his Natural History, that "woodcocks arrive one by one, or two by two, and never in flocks." I could oppose to this assertion other facts also. It is not unusual, when woodcocks first arrive, to observe on certain days forty or fifty of them in a small coppice. I know that a game-keeper on an estate near the Maine, killed eighteen of them in a wood of very small extent, where he found more than eighty. At Benaerville, in Low Normandy, about a league from the sea, during the Christmas holidays, another game-keeper killed a dozen in the morning, in a very short space of time, in a long thick hedge, which bordered a pasture-field, where he found a number of them. He immediately went and informed his master of this circumstance, who came and beat the hedge again, but found only two.—A skilful sportsman of Abbeville, in Picardy

Picardy, (Mr. de Beaupre) wrote to me, that on All Saints day, of the year 1784, he killed ten in the wood of Bonance, situated a league from the city; that he did not arrive there till towards sun-setting, else he might have killed four times as many, as they were remarkably numerous: that the same day a game-keeper, who was shooting at some distance from him, killed also ten or twelve; and that a league and a half thence, a gentleman of the same canton, an officer belonging to the Count D'Artois, fired great part of the day, in a small wood, called the wood of Poatoile, and killed nearly the same number. He adds, that having returned next morning to the same spot, he did not see one; and that when the wood-cocks arrive, it is not uncommon to find them in such numbers in the place where he resides. Were it true that wood-cocks arrive one by one, or two by two, how is it possible that they should be collected together in such numbers in spots of so small extent? It appears therefore highly probable, that they arrive in flocks.

That bird of the southern provinces, by the vulgar in Provence called *Grandonde*, frequents only vast uncultivated plains, particularly that of La Crau, near Arles, where more of them are found than any where else.

They are seen in sufficient plenty, continues Mr. Marolles, in a very extensive plain, which is only sand and gravel, called the plain of Diou, three leagues to the north-east of Orange. They are known in that canton by the name of *Taragoule*. This bird is of the size of a wood pigeon, its beak and legs resemble those of a partridge, but they are both shorter; its plumage approaches near to that of the golden plover. It never perches on trees, and makes its nest in the earth; it is not a bird of passage; it is more inconstant in its habitation than the partridge, and is found at all seasons in La Crau. It feeds upon different kinds of grain, is very wild, and is remarkably shy in suffering any one to approach it. These birds are accustomed to come every morning to the water, to eat and to wash themselves. On account of this custom, the fowlers near La Crau, make small drains from the canals, which traverse this plain, in order to form a small lake, upon the borders of which they watch for them, concealed in a hut; they must however be very quick in firing, for they do not stop, but immediately fly away as soon as they have swallowed two or three gulps of water. On the

plain of Diou, near Orange, the sportsmen pursue a different method; they place themselves in a cart, or some other carriage of the same kind, which they cause to advance slowly, turning always towards the flock, until they are near enough to fire and do execution.

Among all the birds which Buffon has described, I find none that corresponds to this, the description of which was sent me by a skilful sportsman of Provence; but I am persuaded that it is the same as that called Angel, in the neighbourhood of Montpellier, which Salerne says has been erroneously confounded with the wood-pigeon, being nearer related to the species of the partridge, than to that of the pigeon.

The author long considered as pelicans, those extraordinary birds, which were killed about twenty-eight years ago, in one of the ponds belonging to the Abbey of La Trappe.

Being in these cantons, says he, about the time when that happened, I heard mention made of them, but as of birds which nobody knew. As I had then no great inducement to inquire into the particulars of this fact, I did not pay much attention to it; but recollecting it some time ago, when I began to think of publishing this treatise, I resolved to make my researches upon the spot, and to procure, if possible, some farther information respecting these birds. I was not very sanguine in my expectations of succeeding, after such a lapse of time; but from certain particulars which I communicated to a friend who resides in the country, he found out the identical game-keeper, who alone killed these three birds, being then in the service of the Abbey of La Trappe. I procured a relation of the fact, written by the game-keeper himself, from which it results, that the birds in question were not pelicans, but birds really unknown, the description of which is not to be found in any work of natural history; I have therefore thought proper to give it here, as being interesting not only to sportsmen, but also to naturalists. The relation, which I give in his own words, is as follows.

"In the year 1758, between the 20th and the 25th of November, walking along the borders of the pond of Chaumont, which is the nearest to the house, I perceived three birds of a monstrous size, which were at the distance of about thirty paces from the brink. I approached softly, by creeping on all fours, lest they should fly away. The three formed a triangle, and were about half
Z z a "a foot

" a foot distant one from another. I fired at them with large shot, but it made no impression, neither did they attempt to escape; they advanced only, without extending their wings, to the distance of thirty paces farther into the pond. I again loaded, with swan shot, and fired a second time, by which I broke the wing of one of them, which quitted its companions, and retired to the middle of the pond, while the rest advanced along the bank. I then loaded with ball, and firing a third time, killed one of them, the ball having passed through its neck: this happened after sun-set. Next morning, very early, I returned, when I perceived the two birds not far from the shore. The one, the wing of which I had broken, returned to the middle of the pond. I drew out the other which I killed with a ball, and the other, with the broken wing, concealed itself in some reeds. The day following I went back, very early, and perceived it in the middle of the pond, the distance to which was at least one hundred and fifty paces. I began to fire at it with ball, and the fifth time I happened to wound it so much, that I obliged it to retire from the water. I quickly reached the place where it was, and firing again, killed it on the spot.

" The male was five feet in length, from the point of the bill to the feet, and weighed twenty-two pounds; the bill and legs were red; the feet were webbed like those of a goose, and as large as the open hand; the legs were covered with scales, like those of a fish; on the top of the head there was a plume of feathers, about an inch in height, and of a dark-brown color; the plumage of the back was like that of the wild duck; the fore part of the neck and the lower part of the belly were of a whitish grey, and the tail, except in size, resembled that of the goose. The wings, when extended, were seven feet in length, comprehending the body; the quill feathers were as large as a moulded candle of twelve to the pound, and the bill was four inches in thickness, and five and a half in length, and as sharp as a pair of scissors.

" The females weighed only eighteen pounds, were half a foot less in length, had no plume on their heads, and were of a browner color than the male, without any mixture of whitish grey. Their feathers were extremely smooth on the belly, and speckled like the wild duck. No person knew these birds. They must have been very much fatigued, since they never attempted to fly. This is a description of these birds, as first and faithful as it is true that I am called BOULLEV, game-keeper to the Mar- chioness de Viennay."

Though, according to the description of these birds, their bills, their feathers, &c. it evidently appeared that they were not pelicans, yet, fearing that Mr. Boulev might not have exactly remembered every particular respecting their conformation, I wrote to him again, to enquire whether they had not under their throats that large bag which belongs to pelicans only; upon which I received from him the following answer, dated January the 25th, 1787.

" The birds, Sir, which I have had the honor of describing to you, had no bag, as you mention, and they did not even appear to be voracious. Their throats were so small, that they could have swallowed nothing larger than an egg, and no fish were found in their gizzards, owing, perhaps, to their having digested them in the long flight which they had made; for they had not been long in the pond before I observed them. One of them was eat at Nuifement, and was found to be good, though not delicate. Every body could eat of it."

From these articles the reader may perceive that this work is worthy the attention, not only of the sportsman, but also of the naturalist.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF OVIPAROUS QUADRUPEDS AND SERPENTS, *By the Count de la Cépède, Keeper of the King's Cabinet, and Member of the Royal Academies and Societies of Dijon, Lyons, Bourdeaux, Toulouse, Metz, Rome, Stockholm, &c.* Vol. I. Quarto, Paris. 1788.

(Concluded from our last)

IF the crocodile is the largest and the strongest of lizards, the guana is the most remarkable for the beauty of its colors, the splendor of its scales, and the singularity of its conformation.—This animal, as well as the greater part of the large species of lizards, is found in America, which seems to be the country of oviparous quadrupeds. This observation has given rise to the following reflections, which we shall transcribe, in order that the reader may form some idea of the Count de la Cépède's style, and of the ornaments with which he has embellished this part of natural history.

In

In these countries of South America, nature, exercising its power with the greatest activity, sends down from the lofty summits of the Cordilleras, immense torrents, the waters of which, spreading with uncontrolled liberty, overflow the distant plains, where the hand of industry has never opposed any mound to check their course. While immense forests of aged trees cover the slimy banks of these rapid rivers, the warm and vivifying moisture by which they are watered, becomes an unexhaustible source of nourishment to the eternal verdure with which they are crowned: signs continually reviving of a boundless fecundity, where nature, with all the vigor of youth, seems to take delight in treasuring up her prolific seeds. These vast solitudes do not give birth to vegetables only; nature hath given to their immense productions, variety, motion, and life. Until man shall extend his reign over these vast forests, they are the abode of several animals, some of which, by the beauty of their scales, the splendor of their colors, the vivacity of their motions, the agility of their course, and others by the beauty of their plumage, the elegance of their ornaments, the rapidity of their flight, and all, by the diversity of their forms, convey a grand and magnificent idea of those vast countries of the new world, and exhibit a scene equally variegated and immense. On one side is heard the noise of waters, rolling on with a majestic course; on the other, foaming cascades dash with a thundering noise from lofty rocks, while clouds of vapor reflect at a distance the dazzling splendor of the sun's rays. Here the enamel of flowers is united with the brilliant verdure of the soil, which is eclipsed by the still more brilliant and variegated plumage of the birds. There the most lively colors, because they proceed from the smoothest bodies, form the ornament of those huge oviparous quadrupedes and large lizards, which one is astonished to see decorating the summits of the trees, and sharing in the habitations of the winged tribes.

The flesh of the guana is excellent food; for this reason it is eagerly sought after by hunters, although it is a mild, pacific animal, and even so stupid that it may be easily taken alive. The hunter carries with him a long pole, to the end of which is fastened a small cord, in the form of a noose; as soon as he perceives a guana, he begins to whistle; the lizard, which takes pleasure in hearing him, advances its head, while the hunter gradually approaches, still whistling.—

With the end of his pole, he tickles the sides and throat of the guana, which, far from refusing these caresses, turns round gently, and appears to enjoy them with much pleasure.—Seduced by the whistling of the hunter and the tickling of the pole, it thrusts its head beyond the branches so far as to put its neck into the noose, upon which the hunter gives a sudden and smart pull, which makes it fall to the earth; he then seizes it by the bottom of the tail, puts it under his feet, and treading upon it with his whole weight, fastens its legs together, and ties up its mouth.

The Count de la Ceppe is at great pains to refute various prejudices and popular tales respecting several kinds of lizards. For example, what chimerical properties have not some attributed to the *cameleon*? It has been pretended that it often changes its form; that it has no particular color, and that it assumes the color of whatever objects it approaches; and lastly, that it feeds only upon air. It has been made the emblem of the flatterer and the courtier; but the *cameleon* of the poets is only an imaginary being, which has nothing in common with the *cameleon* of nature. The latter is a lizard, the eyes and feet of which are indeed formed in a very singular manner; but which however affords no foundation for those fables which have been propagated respecting it, except for its faculty of presenting to the sight different shades and tints, according to the different directions in which the rays of the sun fall upon its body, and according to the different passions by which it is agitated. This diversity depends also upon climate, age, and sex; and it is easy in general to determine what is the true colour of the *cameleon*. It appears, that its ordinary color is a kind of grey, more or less dark. As its skin is not covered with scales, like that of the greater part of lizards, it is fine and transparent, and can transmit to the surface, by brown, green, or yellow spots, the expression of various changes, which external objects effect on its blood and humors.

One

One very remarkable property of the *cameleon* is, that it can considerably dilate, and afterwards contract different parts of its body.

What absurd wonders have not been related of the *salamander*? Some will have it that this small lizard can remain in the midst of fire without being consumed. The poets have drawn from it a number of comparisons, amorous emblems, and lively devices. They thought that the *salamander*, which could resist the action of fire, could also extinguish it. Quacks and impostors sold to the populace this little animal, which, when thrown into the greatest conflagration, could, as they pretended, suspend its progress. None of these qualities has been given by nature to the *salamander*. Far from being able to live in the midst of flames, it is even afraid of the heat of the sun, and seeks for the shade and moisture.

The basilisk was long considered as a dreadful animal, the piercing looks of which were armed with death.—The lizard, however, to which naturalists at present give the name of basilisk, “far from killing by its looks, as the fabulous animal of the same name, may be viewed with pleasure, when animating the solitude of the immense forests of America; it darts with rapidity from branch to branch; or when in an attitude of repose, and tempering its natural vivacity, it testifies a kind of satisfaction to those who behold it, adorns itself, as one may say, with its crown, gently agitates its beautiful crest, lowers or raises it, and, by the various reflections of its scales, conveys to the eyes of the spectator, the most beautiful undulations of light.”

But it is upon the *Dragon* particularly, that the imagination of poets and romance writers has been employed, and our ingenious author himself describes, with a kind of poetical enthusiasm, the errors which have been propagated respecting this small lizard.

This name of *Dragon* always conveys an extraordinary idea; the memory readily

recalls whatever we have heard mentioned concerning this celebrated monster; the imagination becomes heated by the remembrance of those grand images which it has presented to the poetical genius; a kind of fear gets possession of timorous hearts, and curiosity is awakened in every mind. The ancients and the moderns have both spoken of the dragon. Consecrated by the religion of the earliest people, having become the object of their mythology, the minister of the will of the gods, the guardian of their treasures, serving their love and their hatred, obedient to the power of enchantresses, and entering even into the divine allegories of the most sacred collections, it has been celebrated by the first poets, and portrayed with all the colors that could embellish its form; the principal ornament of pious fables, invented in the remotest ages, subdued by heroes, and even by young heroines, who combated for a divine law, adopted by a second mythology, which placed fairies upon the throne of the ancient enchantresses; become the emblem of the splendid achievements of valiant knight-errants, it has enlivened the poetry of the moderns, as it animated that of the ancients; proclaimed by the severe voice of history; every where celebrated, every where dreaded, and exhibited under all its forms; always clothed with the greatest power; destroying the victims of its fury by a single look, transporting itself through the clouds with the velocity of lightning, striking like a thunderbolt, dissipating the obscurity of night by the brightness of its sparkling eyes; uniting the agility of the eagle, the strength of the lion, and the size of a serpent; sometimes assuming even the human figure; endued with an intelligence almost divine, and adored even at present in the vast kingdoms of the east, the dragon has been all things, and has been found every where but in nature. This fabulous being will however always exist in the happy productions of a fertile imagination; it will long embellish the bold images of bewitching poetry; the recital of its marvellous power will charm the leisure of those who sometimes have need of being transported to the regions of fancy, and who are desirous of seeing truth dressed out with the ornaments of agreeable fiction. But, in the place of this fantastical being, what do we find in reality? An animal, as small as it is weak; an innocent and harmless lizard, and the most defenceless of oviparous quadrupeds, which, by a particular conformation, has the faculty of transporting itself with agility, and of flying from bough to bough in the forest which it inhabits. The kind of wings with which it is provided,

its body shaped like that of the lizard, and its affinity to serpents, have established some distant resemblance between this small animal and the imaginary monster of which we have spoken, and induced naturalists to give it the name of *Dracon*.

After having spoken of tortoises and lizards, the author examines such of these animals as have no tail; the want of this part is a constant and very apparent characteristic which separates this class from the first. Oviparous quadrupedes, destitute of tails, are also much smaller, and their bodies are not covered with scales. Their skin, which is of various degrees of hardness, is covered with tubercles and excrescences, coated over with a viscous kind of humour. The Count de la Cépède divides this class of oviparous quadrupedes without tails into three genera; which are common frogs, *rana arborea*, or frogs which frequent trees, and toads. It is a great misfortune for frogs, that they resemble so odious an animal as the toad; this apparent resemblance causes the imagination to confound the two species, and it is a piece of great injustice, which does much injury to the reputation of the frog. Had toads never existed—had we not these hideous objects of comparison constantly before our eyes, says our author, the frog would appear to us as agreeable in its conformation as distinguished by its qualities. Let us rise therefore above prejudice, let us surmount an ill-founded aversion, and when we stray through the fields, let us with pleasure behold the banks of the rivulets embellished by the colors of these innocent animals, and, animated by the agility of their motion; let us contemplate their little manœuvres, and let us follow them with our eyes through the middle of the placid ponds, the solitude of which they often enliven, without disturbing their repose.

However well-disposed our author may be in favor of frogs, he is forced to allow that their voice is not agreeable, and that nature never intend-

ed them to be the musicians of our plains.

The hoarse and disagreeable sounds with which they fill the air, are calculated only to disturb the tranquillity of the beautiful nights of summer; that enchanting silence which reigns through the green meads, on the banks of some still fountain, when the moon illuminates with her calm beams that rural retreat where all beings would enjoy the charms of the cool air, of repose, and of the delicious odor of the flowers, and where all the senses would be enwrapt in sweet extacy, were not that of hearing violently assailed by sounds equally strong and harsh, and croakings perpetually renewed.

The *rana arborea* possess vivacity and agility in a more eminent degree than common frogs; their height, which is less, makes them appear prettier; but what gives them a very advantageous distinction, is the faculty they have of being able to adhere to the branches and leaves of trees, by means of small viscous knobs which they have under their toes. It is very singular to see these aquatic animals sharing in the habitation of birds.

However, says the author, that no unfavorable prejudice may exist against them, let us examine their lively colors, united with the verdure of the leaves, and the enamel of the flowers; let us remark their stratagems and cunning; let us follow them with our eyes when in pursuit of their prey; let us behold them darting to the distance of several feet, and adhering with great facility to the leaves, even with their backs downwards, and placing themselves in an attitude, which might appear altogether wonderful, were we not acquainted with the organ which has been given them, in order to enable them to adhere to the smoothest surface; shall we not then find as much pleasure in beholding them, as in examining the plumage, the manœuvres, and the flight of various species of birds?

The Count de la Cépède seems reluctantly to give an extensive place in his Natural History to an animal, so hideous and disgusting as the toad. He expresses with much energy and eloquence, his aversion to this ugly animal, and his indignation against it.

For a long time, says he, universal belief has affixed an idea of horror to this disgusting animal, the approach of which shocks every sense; that kind of aversion which we feel on discovering it, is produced even by the image which the memory presents. Many people scarcely ever think of it, without shuddering, and those of a weak constitution and delicate nerves, when they recollect the idea of it, think they feel in their veins that icy cold, which is said to accompany the touch of the toad; every thing in it is loathsome, even its very name, which is become the sign of the greatest deformity.

We are always astonished to see it constitute a lasting species so much the wider dispersed, as it is able to endure almost all climates, and as several neighbouring species unite with it, to form a numerous family. One is almost tempted to consider this animal as the fortuitous production of putrefaction and humidity, as one of the sports of nature; and we cannot imagine how this common mother, who so often unites so many beautiful proportions and agreeable colors, and who has given even to different species of frogs, a kind of elegance and neatness, should have bestowed upon the toad so hideous a form; nor must we believe, that an arbitrary agreement of sentiments makes it be looked upon as one of the ugliest beings in nature, for it appears deformed in all its parts. If it has paws, they do not raise its disproportionate body above the earth which it inhabits; if it has eyes, they are not intended to receive the light, which it shuns. Feeding on stinking or poisonous herbs, concealed in its hole, squatting under heaps of stones, or hid in the caverns of some rock, filthy in its habitation, disgusting in its manner of living, deformed in its body, having a dark color, and an infectious breath, never rising but with difficulty, opening when attacked a hideous mouth, having no other power but that of resisting severe blows; inactive in its mass, obstinately stupid, and employing no other arms but a fetid liquor, which it spouts forth, what good attends it, except that of seeking, if one may say so, to conceal itself from view, by shunning the light of the day?

The author gives an account of the manner in which toads live, and of their copulation, which continues seven or eight days, and even twenty, when the season or the climate is cold. Both the male and the female croak without ceasing, and the male often sends forth a loud grunting kind of a cry, when any one attempts to separate

him from the female, or when he sees another male approach, which he beholds with passion, and endeavours to drive away, by stretching out his hind claws. Whatever wounds may be given him he never quits her; if he is separated from her by force, he returns as soon as he is at liberty, and renews his caresses, although he may be deprived of several of his limbs, and covered with bleeding wounds. The author relates what has been said of toads found in trees, or stones, which he very much doubts; but he allows, that they may live eighteen months, shut up in boxes closely sealed down, without any nourishment.

Among the curious objects which render this work truly valuable, is an account of a biped, which has never yet been described by any naturalist. The author names it *Le Canale*. It was found in Mexico, by Mr. Velosquet, a learned Spaniard, who sent it to Mr. Polony, an able physician of the island of St. Domingo, from whence it was brought to France, by the Governor's lady, the Countess de Fontanges, who preserved it with a care and an attention, which one could have hardly expected that a beauty would bestow upon a reptile, much more calculated to create disgust, than to afford pleasure.

As a man of letters and a naturalist, the Count de la Cépède merits, without restriction, the highest praises, for the exactness of his researches, the extent of his erudition, the justness and depth of his views, the sound criticism and philosophy which characterise his observations, and the order and method, which we have observed in the exposition of his ideas. In this respect, he may be put upon a parallel with Buffon; but as a writer we consider him faulty. The Count has not sufficient command over his imagination, naturally bright and lively; he lavishes without reserve all the treasures of eloquence and poetry, accumulates the most magnificent epithets, displays a luxuriance of elocution, which would be

is tedious in an oration, and loses himself in figures and ornaments, which would be superfluous even in a poem; the multitude of descriptive and sonorous words which he throws together at random, weakens and obscures his thoughts. His sentences are numerous and well turned; but the harmony of his language is not always sufficiently pure, simple and correct; it is often interrupted by breaks, and is often only a sound of

words with very little meaning.—The Count de la Cepede, therefore, wants nothing to make him a very distinguished writer, and a rival worthy of Buffon, but a chaster and more delicate taste, more precision and neatness, and more economy in the richness of style.

The plates which ornament this volume, forty-one in number, are beautiful and curious, and every way suited to the merit of the work.

BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

ORIGINAL ANECDOTES of PETER the GREAT, collected from the *Conversation of several Persons of Distinction, at Petersburg and Moscow*, by Mr. Stæhlin, Member of the Imperial Academy, at Petersburg, 8vo. London, 1788. Murray.

PETER the First, or, as he is justly styled, Peter the Great, was a prince of such extraordinary talents, that any anecdotes concerning him, if properly authenticated, must prove highly gratifying to the public.

When we consider the difficulties with which this great man had to struggle, the dangers he encountered, the obstacles he removed, and the hardships to which he submitted, in order to accomplish his ends, we shall be at a loss whether most to admire his penetrating sagacity, or his invincible resolution. A celebrated ancient biographer has remarked, that a few anecdotes, which to some might appear trifling, often convey a better idea of the manners and disposition of a great man, than the most pompous relation of his battles and sieges. In this remark there is much justness, and we are of opinion, that the present volume contains many particulars which will throw great light upon the character of the Legislator of Russia.

In his preface, Mr. Stæhlin tells us by what fortunate circumstances he was enabled to collect these interesting

anecdotes. In 1735, he set out from Dresden to Peterburgh, whither he had been invited, to fill a vacant seat in the Academy of Sciences. Upon this occasion, Count Bruhl, Prime Minister to the King of Poland, gave him a letter of introduction to the Count of Lynar, Envoy Extraordinary from King Augustus to the Court of Russia, by whom he was received in the most honorable manner, and treated with the greatest friendship. This attention procured Mr. Stæhlin the acquaintance of several persons of distinction, both Russians and foreigners, many of whom had not only served in the fleet and army, or held civil employments under Peter the Great, but had also been much about his person. Some of these noblemen, knowing that our author proposed to collect whatever anecdotes he might hear of their illustrious master, encouraged him in his design, and readily communicated those which had come to their knowledge. Mr. Stæhlin had still better opportunities of enriching his collection, by being honored with the appointment of tutor to the Great Duke Feodorowitch, and afterwards with that of librarian, on his marriage.

We shall select a few of these anecdotes, for the entertainment of our readers. The following will serve to display Peter's inflexibility, and his rigid adherence to justice.

Czar Peter, at the age of twenty-five, was seized with an inflammatory fever, which brought him to the brink of the grave. Scarcely any hope was entertained of his recovery: the consternation was general, and constant prayers were offered up in the churches for the establishment of his health. At this conjuncture, the criminal judge, according to an ancient custom, came to wait on him, and to ask if it would not be proper to reprieve nine criminals under sentence of death, for murder, rapine, and highway robberies, in order that they might offer up prayers to heaven for his recovery.

The sick Prince ordered the judge to approach his bedside, and commanded him to read aloud the names of the nine criminals, and their different indictments. When the judge had finished, the Monarch said to him, in a feeble voice, "Do you think that by granting impunity to villains, and by perverting the course of justice, I should perform a good action, and that heaven, in return, would prolong my life? Do you believe that God would be propitious to the prayers of assassins, and profligate wretches, who have forgot his divinity? No: I order you to delay the execution of the sentence pronounced against these malefactors no longer than till to-morrow, and if any thing be capable of obtaining from heaven the restoration of my life and health, I hope it will be this act of justice."

Every one knows that this great Monarch gave a new face to the Russian empire, that he rendered it flourishing and respectable, by introducing the strictest discipline among his troops, by creating a formidable navy, by establishing places of education for the young nobility, and by encouraging manufactures, arts, and sciences. It is likewise well known what uneasiness he felt on account of the behaviour of his son Alexis, who opposed all his designs, and endeavoured to counteract his most useful operations. This was carried to such a length, that he was reduced to the disagreeable necessity of extorting a public declaration from his son, by which he acknowledged himself to be incapable of reigning, and to have forfeited all his pretensions to the throne. It appears, therefore, that the love of his country prevailed over paternal affection, in the heart of Peter the Great.

But a still greater proof of the patriotic sentiments which induced this Prince to sacrifice every thing, even his own person, for the public good, is the letter which he wrote to the Senate of Petersburg, from the camp of Pruth, in 1711, when he was blocked up with his whole army, destitute of provisions or resource, by a numerous body of Turks.

In this desperate situation, from which it seemed that nothing but a miracle could deliver him, his uneasiness did not arise from his own danger, but from that of the state. He saw, with unshaken courage, the moment draw near, when the only alternative left would be to perish with his troops by the Turkish scimitar, or to surrender himself prisoner of war. At last, when he thought all was irrecoverably lost, he entered his tent, sat down with great tranquility, wrote and sealed a letter, and sent for the officer in whom he placed the greatest confidence. "Will you undertake," said he, "to pass through the enemy's camp, and carry a letter to Petersburg?" The officer, who was well acquainted with the country, answered in the affirmative, and assured his Majesty, that his letter should be delivered. Peter, relying on the word of this servant, gave him the letter, addressed to the Senate, kissed his forehead, and added these words. "Go then, and God be your guard."

In nine days the officer reached the capital, and delivered his letter to the assembled Senate. The doors were shut while it was read, and great was the astonishment of the assembly when they heard what follows:

"I have to inform you, that, deceived by false intelligence, and from no neglect of my own, I find myself blocked up in my camp, by a Turkish army, four times more numerous than mine. My provisions are intercepted, and we are on the point of being cut to pieces, or taken prisoners, if Heaven assist us not, by some unexpected means. If I should happen to be taken by the Turks, I desire you to consider me no longer as your Czar, or Lord, nor to pay attention to any order that may be brought you in my name, not even if you should perceive the handwriting to be mine; but to wait till I come in person: or, if I am doomed to die here, and you shall receive well-authenticated accounts of my death, you will proceed to elect the most worthy among you for my successor."

The original of this letter is still existing.

ing in the cabinet of Peter the Great, at the imperial palace in Peterburgh, among a multitude of other papers in his own handwriting: Prince Michaila Michailovitch Stcherbatoff, who has the care of them, has shown them to several persons of distinguished rank.

Peter had studied with great attention the difference of character in the individuals of the principal nations of Europe. He was well acquainted with their manner of living and thinking, and, in consequence of this knowledge, laid down rules for his own behaviour towards those whom he invited to his dominions.

One day, when he was at the admiralty, where the appointment of several foreigners was in agitation, he took occasion to speak of the manner of treating them, their dispositions, abilities, and inclinations, and particularly concerning the quantum of salary that should be allotted to each.

"To a Frenchman," said he, "good pay may be given: he is a man of pleasure, who does not amass money, but spends whatever he earns. The case is nearly the same with a German: he loves good living, and scarcely saves any thing. An Englishman requires something more: he will enjoy himself at any rate, should he even be obliged to have recourse to his own credit. As to a Dutchman, he scarcely eats sufficient to satisfy nature, and thinks of nothing but of economising: less, therefore, will serve him: and less still will serve an Italian, who is naturally so parsimonious, that he always possesses much money: he does not even make a mystery of it, but confesses, without reserve, that he serves abroad with no other view than to accumulate sufficient to live upon hereafter at his ease, in his paradise, his dear Italy, where money is scarce."

We have often heard that Peter, in the earliest part of his life, had an antipathy to water, or was seized with a kind of horror on the sight of that element; but it will, no doubt, appear still more astonishing, that he should be afraid of a small insect.

Nothing, says Mr. Strahlen, was so much the object of the Czar's antipathy, as a black insect of the scarabeus or beetle kind, which breeds in houses that are not

kept clean, and especially in places where meal and other provisions are deposited. In the country, the walls and ceilings of the peasants' houses are covered with them, particularly in Russia, where they abound more than in any other part of the world. They are there called *taracans*; but our naturalists give them the name of *dermeste*, or dissection scarabeus.

Although the Russian Monarch was far from being subject to childish fears, or womanish fancies, one of these insects sufficed to drive him out of an apartment, nay, even out of the house. In his frequent journeys in his own dominions, he never went into a house without having his apartment carefully swept, by one of his own servants, and being assured that there were no taracans to fear.—One day he paid a visit to an officer, who stood pretty high in his esteem, at his country house, which was built of wood, at a little distance from Moscow. The Czar expressed his satisfaction with what was offered him, and with the order he observed in the house. The company sat down to table, and dinner was already begun, when he asked his landlord if there were taracans in his house. "Not many," replied the officer, without reflecting; "and the better to get rid of them, I have pinned a living one to the wall." At the same time he pointed to the place where the insect was pinned, and still continued to palpitate. Unfortunately, it was just beside the Czar, in whom the unexpected sight of this object of his aversion produced so much emotion, that he rose instantly from table, gave the officer a violent blow, and left his house, with all his attendants.

In the cabinet of natural history of the academy of Peterburgh, among a number of things, is preserved, *Lisette*, a favourite greyhound of the Russian Monarch. This animal was very fond of her master; she never quitted him but when he went out, and then she laid herself down on his couch. At his return, she testified her fondness by a thousand caresses, and, during his afternoon nap, lay always at his feet.

A person belonging to the court, having excited the anger of the Czar, I do not know by what means, was confined in the fort, and there was reason to suppose that he would receive the punishment of the knout, on the first market day.

The whole Court, and the Empress herself thought him innocent, and considered

A a a

the

the anger of the Czar as excessive and unjust. Every means was tried to save him, and the first opportunity taken to intercede in his favor. But so far from succeeding, it served only to irritate the Emperor the more, who forbade all persons, even the Empress, to speak for the prisoner, and, above all, to present any petition on the subject, under pain of incurring his highest displeasure.

It was supposed that no resource remained to save the culprit. However, those who, in concert with the Czarina interested themselves in his favor, devised the means of presenting a petition, without incurring the penalty of the prohibition.

They composed a short, but pathetic petition, in the name of Lifette. After having set forth her uncommon fidelity to her master, she adduced the strongest proofs of innocence of the prisoner, intreated the Czar to take the matter into consideration, and to be propitious to her prayer, by granting him his liberty.

This petition was tied to her collar, in such a manner as to be easily visible.

On the Czar's return from the admiralty and senate, Lifette, as usual, came leaping about him, and he perceived the paper, folded in the form of a petition. He took, and read it. "What!" said he, "Lifette, do you also present me petitions? well, as it is the first time, I grant your prayer." He immediately sent a denitchick to the fort, with orders to set the prisoner at liberty.

We shall conclude our extracts from this work with an account of the monuments of Peter the Great, which are preserved in the academy of Petersburg. They were deposited there after his death, and are readily shewn to the lovers of curiosities.

There is, in the first place, among the apartments allotted to the academy, a cabinet, in which are the portraits of the Czars and Czarinas, and of the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial blood, all painted in oil, and copied from the originals, from Iwan Wassilowitsch down to the Empress Elizabeth Petrowna.

The ceiling is ornamented with a painting, in *fresco*, in which Peter the Great is represented crowned by Immortality with a garland of stars. Opposite the door is a

figure in wax of the Czar, as large as life, sitting on a throne, and placed under a canopy. He is dressed in a blue silk coat, embroidered with silver; his stockings are of a dark red color, with silver glocks; his shoes are old, and newly soled, such as he used to wear. The face is modelled after the cast in plaster taken at his death. The little wig he wears is made of his own hair. Having cut it off on account of the excessive heat, during the war in Persia, in 1722, he ordered it to be made into this very wig, which he kept in his pocket, in the day time, and wore at night to guard against the coldness of the nocturnal air. Over his coat is the blue ribbon of the order of St. Andrew, with the star, embroidered in silver, on his left breast, and over his waistcoat a sword belt, likewise embroidered in silver, in which is a hanger, with a hilt of jasper, a present from King Augustus.

This was the dress worn by Peter, at Moscow, in 1724, when he declared his wife Catharine Empress, and placed the crown upon her head with his own hands. This was the first and last time of his life that he dressed himself with so much magnificence. The embroidery of both coat and belt was the work of the Empress and her women.

The face, in which are glass eyes, tolerably well executed, has little or no resemblance of the Czar. His cheeks were plump; but here they are hollow, or flat at least. This, no doubt, proceeded from the pressure of the plaster on the flaccid muscles of the corpse, an inconvenience that the artist should have rectified while the wax was warm.

On each side of the throne is a cabinet, containing the clothes worn by the Czar. In one is his uniform of colonel of the Preobrazhenski regiment of guards. The coat is green, of a very fine Dutch cloth, and lined with silk, which appears to have been formerly green, but to have changed into a kind of blue. The buttons are large, and of copper, gilt. His hat,* which is quite plain, is also to be seen here, as is his gorget of silver, gilt, and uniform sword, with a black gripe, and copper shell. There are also two spontoons; one he made use of in his youth, when he raised a regular company of foot; the other, which is longer by a third, when he was made colonel of the Preobrazhenski regiment of guards.

* In the cock of the hat is a hole, made by a musket ball, in an action with the Swedes. When the Landgravine of Hesse Cassel came to Petersburg, in 1775, she paid a visit to the cabinet of curiosities and natural history, at the academy. When she saw the figure of Peter the Great, she looked at it for some time with an air of astonishment. At the sight of the hat she showed a strong emotion, took it, kissed it, and cried out with transport, "What a great man!"

In the other cabinet is preserved a waistcoat of elk-skin, the same that he wore in all his battles, a pair of jack-boots, his night-cap of coarse linen, with a green ribbon; a pair of colored worsted stockings, mended in several places, and a pair of shoes, which had been several times soled, and which were the last pair he wore.

A nail, placed in the frame of a cabinet door, marks the height of Peter the First, whose stature was three *arschin*, wanting two *werschok*, Russian measure, or about six feet seven inches English.

In a corner of the same cabinet is the Emperor's famous *dubina*. This is the name given to the Emperor's cane, which is a stout joint, with an ivory head. He often made it, as has been said above, the instrument of justice, when he punished inattention and forgetfulness of his orders.

To give greater authenticity to these anecdotes, the author adds, at the bottom of each, the name of the person upon whose authority he relates it,

LETTERS ON GREECE, *being a Sequel to Letters on Egypt, and containing Travels through Rhodes, Crete, and other Islands of the Archipelago. Translated from the French of Mr. Savary.* London, Robinsons. 1788.

(Concluded from our last)

OUR readers we hope will not be displeased with us for giving them Mr. Savary's account of the ancient city of Gortyna, and of the celebrated Labyrinth.

The ruins of Gortyna cover a vast extent of ground, and enable us to form some idea of its ancient magnificence.—Such of its monuments as still subsist, are not of the highest antiquity. One of the most remarkable, is a gate built with large bricks, which have been formerly covered with freestone; those of the sides and arch-way have been detached, yet it still does, and must long continue to subsist. This edifice is of a considerable thickness, and presents an extensive front. It cannot be supposed more ancient, than the time when Ptolemy Philopater undertook to rebuild the walls of Gortyna. Beyond this gate, we find a large open space in form nearly a parallelogram, on each side of which is a double row of pedestals.

The bases of the marbles are buried, and the tops alone appear above the ground. The order in which they are ranged gives reason to conjecture they were part of the portico of a temple. At different intervals we meet with heaps of rubbish, and columns of marble, and of granite, buried up to the middle of their shafts. The capitals lie near them broken off; but several of them have none. Near the farther end of these ruins, on the banks of that beautiful river, where Harmonia forgot Cadmus, we enter a church, one side of which is destroyed. Its architecture is simple, without colonnades; and it is about one hundred and twenty feet long, by sixty wide. This is probably the ancient cathedral founded by Titus, the disciple of St. Paul. Some considerable ruins, situated at a little distance, may be the remains of the palace of the archbishop.

These ruins do not appear suitable to what might be expected from the grandeur and magnificence of Gortyna. But we must consider that the finest marbles have been carried off, that we see, in adjacent villages, ancient columns employed in making gates for the Turkish gardens, and that the greatest part of its ornaments are buried under the earth, which is considerably raised. If the ground were dug into, and proper researches made, we should certainly find statues and valuable antiquities. At present, the husbandman passes his plough over them, and covers with his harvest the ruins of the palaces and temples of Gortyna. Such is the destiny of ancient cities. They are the work of man, and perish like himself. Those which, in ages past, were the ornament, or terror of the world, Thebes, Memphis, and Babylon, are now no more. Can you imagine that Paris, that noble city, which contains within itself all the arts, and innumerable inhabitants, will exist for ever? Can you doubt that the curious traveller shall one day wander amid heaps of rubbish, in search of the situation of her temples and her palaces? Let us console ourselves, that period is still very remote.

We quitted the plain of Gortyna to visit the Labyrinth. The road leading to this memorable place is rough and steep; but after an ascent of near an hour, we at length reached the entrance. We had brought with us the thread of Ariadne, that is to say, four hundred fathoms of twine, which we fastened to the gate, where we stationed two janissaries, with orders to suffer nobody to enter. The opening of the Labyrinth is natural, and not wide. When you have advanced a little, you find a considerable space strewn with large stones, and covered with a flat

flat roof cut out of the solid mountain.—To discern our way amid this gloomy abode, we each carried a flambeau. Two Greeks bore the clew, which they unfolded or wound up as occasion required. At first we lost ourselves in different alleys without an opening, and were obliged to measure back our steps, but at length discovered the true passage, which is on the right as we enter; we arrive at it by a narrow path, and are obliged to creep on our hands and feet for the space of an hundred yards, the roof being extremely low. At the end of this narrow passage, the ceiling rises suddenly, and we were able to walk upright, in the midst of the impenetrable darkness that surrounded us, and the numerous ways which struck off on each side, and crossed each other in different directions.—The two Greeks we had hired trembled with apprehension; the sweat poured down their faces, and they refused to advance, unless we took the lead.

The alleys through which we passed were in general from seven to eight feet high; in width they varied from six to ten, and sometimes more. They are all chiseled out of the rock, and the stones, of a dirty grey, are ranged in horizontal layers. In some places, huge blocks of stone, half detached from the roof, seem ready to fall on your head, and you must stoop in passing them, not without some danger of their falling. This havoc has, no doubt, been occasioned by earthquakes, which are so frequent in Crete.

Thus did we continue wandering in this maze, of which we endeavoured to discover all the windings, and as soon as we had got to the end of one alley, entered into another. Sometimes we were stopped short by a passage without an opening, and at others, after long circuits, were astonished to find ourselves at the cross-way from which we had set out.—Frequently, after encircling with our cord a great extent of rock, we were obliged to wind it up, and return the way we came. It is impossible to describe to what a degree these passages are multiplied and crooked; some of them form curves which lead you infensibly to a vast empty space, supported by enormous pillars, whence three or four passages strike off that conduct to opposite points; others, after long windings, divide into several branches; these again extend a great length, and terminated by the rock, oblige the traveller to trace back his way. We walked with precaution in the windings of this vast labyrinth, amid the eternal darkness that reigns throughout it, and which our torches could hardly dispel. Thus situated, the imagination raises up phantoms; it figures to itself precipices under the feet of the curious,

monsters placed as centinels, and, in a word, a thousand chimeras which can have no existence.

The precaution we had taken of proceeding with the thread of Ariadne, and of fastening it at different distances, lest it should break, allowed us to advance faster than Belon, Tournesfort and Pocock were able to do, for want of such assistance. We observed in several parts of the middle avenue, the cyphers 1700, written with a black pencil, by the hand of the celebrated French botanist. An extraordinary circumstance which he remarks, and which we admired no less than he had done, is the property possessed by the rock of presenting the names engraven on it in relief. We saw several of them, wherein this sort of sculpture had arisen to the thickness of two lines, (the sixth part of an inch). The substance of this relief is whiter than the stone.

After straying for a long time in the frightful cavern of the Minotaur, we arrived at the extremity of the alley which Tournesfort followed. There we found a wide space, with cyphers cut in the rock, none of which were of an earlier date than the fourteenth century.—There is another similar to this on the right; each of them may be about twenty-four or thirty feet square. To arrive at this place, we had run out almost our line, that is to say, about twenty-four hundred feet, without mentioning our various excursions. We remained three hours in the Labyrinth, continually walking, without being able to flatter ourselves with having seen every thing. I believe it would be impossible for any man to get out of it, if left there without either clew or flambeau; he would lose himself in a thousand windings: the horrors of the place, and the intense darkness, would fill him with consternation, and he must miserably perish.

On our return, we examined a winding we had not before noticed; it conducted us to a beautiful grotto, rising into a dome, wrought by the hand of nature. It has no stalactites, nor indeed is a single one to be found in the whole extent of the cavern, as the water does not filtrate through the roof. Every thing is dry; and, as the air is never renewed, the smell is extremely disagreeable. Thousands of bats, the dung of which lies in heaps, inhabit this gloomy abode. They are the only monsters we discovered. We came out with a great deal of pleasure, and breathed the external air with a kind of rapture. Night now began to come on, and the road was not very easy to be found; we hastened, therefore, to descend the mountain, and entered a neighbouring farm, where we were very hospitably entertained by a Turk.

Several

Several authors, among whom are Belon and Pocock, pretend that this labyrinth is only a quarry from which stones were taken to build the city of Gortyna. Mr. Tournefort however has confuted this opinion, and has proved that the stone of this cavern is too soft for the purposes of building, and that it would have cost immense sums to transport it across the steep mountains which lie between the labyrinth and that city. Had the labyrinth been a quarry, why leave at the entrance a channel an hundred yards long, so low as not to be passed but by creeping, and through which stones could not be brought until broken to pieces? Mr. Tournefort says, it is much more probable that this surprising cavern is the work of art, and the passage at the entrance has not been altered, in order to shew posterity what was the state of these subterranean channels, before they were enlarged by the hand of man. It evidently appears that nothing more has been attempted than merely to make them passable, since those stones only have been cleared away which occasioned obstruction. All the rest have been left, and are ranged in order along the walls.

Mr. Savary says, it is certain that the immense cavern, the windings of which he has described, is not the labyrinth formed by Dædalus, on the plan of that of Egypt. All the ancient authors attest, that the famous work of that celebrated artist was situated at Cnossus. "It was agreed," says Pausanias, "to send to the Minotaur of Crete seven virgins and seven boys, to be thrown into the labyrinth built in the city of Cnossus." And Philostratus, in his life of Apollonius tells us, that as soon as he arrived at Cnossus, he visited the labyrinth, &c.

John Tzetzes describes this famous edifice in a very satisfactory manner, and informs us of the use for which it was intended. Dædalus, the Athenian, made for king Minos a prison, from which it was impossible to escape.

Its numerous windings were in form of a snail, and it was called the *Labyrinth*. Philocorus asserts, after the unanimous testimony of the Cretans, that the Labyrinth was a prison, contrived more effectually to prevent the escape of malefactors.

In order to explain the origin of this remarkable cavern, Mr. Savary proceeds in the following manner:

Permit me to go somewhat further back, in order to throw a little light on a few obscure facts, mingled with so many fables. By collecting the various opinions of ancient authors, perhaps, we may be able to remove the veil which conceals truth. You know that Androgeus, son of Minos, went to Athens, and that Ægeus, at his return from Trozene, celebrated what were called the Panathenaic games, to which all Greece repaired. The Cretan hero entered the lists, vanquished all the combatants, and was publicly crowned. This prince entered into a friendly alliance with the Pallantides, who made pretensions to the throne. Ægeus, dreading the consequences of this friendship, had him assassinated near Cnossus in Attica, when on his way to a sacred solemnity.

Minos soon appeared at the head of a naval armament, to demand vengeance for the death of his son; and, after a long and bloody siege, during which Athens was ravaged by the plague, Ægeus, incapable of defending himself any longer, demanded of the king of Crete what satisfaction he required. That prince insisted on his sending him, every seventh year, seven boys and seven girls, to be delivered to the Minotaur. These unhappy victims were abandoned to him, and he carried them off in his fleet. At the stated time he again appeared with a number of ships, and was satisfied in like manner.

These children were chosen by lot, and the parents of those on whom the fatal chance fell, murmured loudly against Ægeus. They were filled with indignation, on reflecting that the author of the mischief should alone escape the punishment; and that he should raise to the throne a natural son, while he deprived them of their legitimate children. They were even ripe for a revolt. But when the time for sending the third tribute arrived, Theseus, whom several gallant actions had already raised to the fame of a hero, and who, in the bloom of youth, united every endowment of mind and body, was determined to put an end to these mur-

mura. He voluntarily offered himself to be one of the victims, resolving to perish, or free his country from an odious tribute; and departed, after sacrificing to Apollo at Delphi, who directed him to take Venus for his guide.

Let us now endeavour to discover the true meaning of the fable of the Minotaur. Taurus was the name of one of the principal men of Crete, who was a native of Cnossus. His valour, and other great qualities, no doubt, recommended him to Minos, who made choice of him to command an expedition against Phœnicia. "Taurus," adds Palephatus, "a citizen of Cnossus, made war on the Tyrians. Having overcome them, he carried off several young women from their city, among whom was Europa, daughter of king Agenor. This it was that gave rise to the fable of a bull having seized Europa, and carried her away. The poets, fond of the marvellous, added, that she was ravished by Jupiter in the form of a bull."

The conqueror lived at the court of Minos: he had returned laden with the spoils of Tyre, and as he possessed the advantage of a fine person, the renown he had acquired by his military exploits, rendered him still more handsome in the eyes of Pasiphae, the daughter of the Sun, and wife of the king of Crete. She became enamoured of him, and finding means to gratify her passion, had a son by him. Minos having discovered "that this child could not be his, but that he was the fruit of the amours of Taurus and Pasiphae, would not; however, put him to death, but confined him to the mountains, to serve the shepherds. In these solitary abodes he grew wild and fierce, and lived by robbery, and stealing sheep from the flocks. Having learnt that Minos had sent soldiers to take him, he dug a deep cavern, which he made his place of refuge. At length the king of Crete sent to the son of Taurus such criminals as he wished to punish with death." His ferocity, and this employment, no doubt, procured him the name of Minotaur, and induced poets and painters to represent him as a monster, half a man, and half a bull. An ingenious emblem, which had reference at once to his birth, his character, and his odious services.

Theseus having landed in Crete, endeavoured to calm the anger of Minos, who had fallen in love with Pasiphae, one of the seven Athenian virgins. He convinced him, that he was the son of Neptune, and endeavoured to mitigate the rigour of his fate. The prince, almost disarmed, treated him at first very favourably, and permitted him to mix

with the combatants in the public games. The Athenian hero excited universal admiration by his address and courage, and enchanted every heart with the gracefulness of his person.

In Crete, women were permitted to be present at the public shows; and Ariadne saw Theseus engage with, and overcome, the most renowned warriors of her country; but while she admired the bravery and graces of the youthful hero, love stole into her heart, and inflicted one of his deepest wounds. It is probable she confessed her passion to the conqueror; and that, to fulfil the precept of the oracle, he profited by her declaration. It is natural to suppose also, that Minos, informed of this intrigue, considered it as a new offence, and resolved to shut him up in the labyrinth of Cnossus, that he might be for ever buried in the horrid obscurity of that tremendous prison. This conjecture is rendered more than probable by the following passage. "Theseus arriving at the gate of the Labyrinth, encountered Deucalion and the guards, and put them to death." So desperate an action determined Minos no longer to keep any measures with his enemy, and he sent him to Taurus, with orders to put him to death.

You recollect that Taurus was the executioner of Minos; that he dwelt in a profound cavern, in which he destroyed the prisoners condemned to death. The ancients assert, that the name of Labyrinth was given also to this gloomy abode, in which art assisting nature, had formed new passages, and contrived a multitude of windings, from which it was almost impossible to escape.

"The Labyrinth of Crete was a cavern dug out of a mountain." Cedrenus adds these remarkable words: "The Minotaur fled to a place called the Labyrinth, and concealed himself there, in the depth of a cavern."—"The Labyrinth of Crete, that subterraneous cavern, with a thousand windings, contained an inhabitant."

These testimonies remove all doubt. They accurately describe the Labyrinth I visited; its situation in a mountain, its winding passages, sufficiently prove it contained an inhabitant. This could be no other than the son of Taurus, who, in order to escape the emissaries of Minos, dug a cavern in the mountain. This horrid place was his abode, and, in part, his work; and here the monster performed the bloody executions commanded by the king.

Mr. Savary supports this opinion by several facts; but as we cannot follow him in his details, we shall quit the

the gloomy Labyrinth, and conduct our readers to scenes of a more cheering aspect. That which Mount Ida presents is highly romantic and picturesque.

Mount Ida begins near Candia, and stretches from east to west, as far as the White Mountains. It extends from the northern to the southern sea, and is the highest in the island. In many parts of it, the snow lies all the year. From its summit we may discover the sea of Crete, and that of Lybia. The eye wanders over an immense horizon, and discerns many of the scattered islands of the Archipelago, such as Cythera, Milo, and Argentiera. If we confine our attention to the view of the objects before us, they appear as in an immense perspective, and present prospects highly varied, and astonishingly rich and beautiful.

In summer, when the snows are melted, vast plains, situated on the declivity of the mountain, afford excellent pasturage for the flocks. On that part of it opposite to Candia are forests, consisting chiefly of maple and green oak. The southern sides abound with the strawberry-tree, privets, and rock-roses. The eastern brow is beautified with cedars, pines, and cypresses; but on the west, its perpendicular sides present nothing but piles of rocks, impossible to scale. It is enriched with an infinity of other plants, which would delight the botanist, such as the true melilot, the yellow-flowered marjoram, &c. Abundant streams flow on every side from its summits. Some rush in torrents into the valleys, while others water the plains, which produce luxurious harvests, or, distributed by art, maintain fecundity in the innumerable fruit-trees, which grow round the villages. The hill-sides, exposed to the powerful rays of the sun, are clothed with vineyards, which produce exquisite wines; and the olive-trees every where constitute the principal riches of the country.

The climate of Crete appears, from Mr. Savary's account, to be remarkably pleasant and temperate.

Among all the countries, continues he, in which I have resided, there is none whose temperature is so healthy, and so agreeable, as that of Crete. The heats there are not excessive; and violent cold is absolutely unknown in the plains. By the observations which I made at Canea, during a whole year, I found that, from the month of March to the beginning of November, the thermometer only varied from 50 to 87 degrees (of Reaumur's scale) above the

freezing point. This variation is not considerable; besides that, in the hottest days of summer, the atmosphere was refreshed by the sea-breezes. The winter, properly speaking, begins only in December, and ends in January. During this short season, snow never falls in the plain, and rarely do you see the surface of the water frozen. The weather is more commonly as fine as in the beginning of June in France. The name of winter is given to these two months, from the heavy rains, the cloudy sky, and very violent north winds, which happen at this time of the year; but these rains are highly useful to agriculture, since the winds drive the clouds towards the high mountains, where the reservoirs of water are formed by nature to fertilize the country, and the inhabitant of the plain suffers nothing from these transient variations.

No sooner is the month of February past, than the earth is adorned with flowers and harvests. The rest of the year is almost one continued fine day. We never experience, as in France, those cruel returns of piercing cold, which, coming suddenly after the heats, nip the opening flowers, destroy the fruits of the year, and are so prejudicial to delicate constitutions. The sky is continually bright and serene, and the winds mild and temperate. The glorious luminary of day runs his majestic course through the azure vault, and ripens the luxuriant fruits of the hills and plains. Nor are the nights less beautiful; a delicious coolness then prevails, and the air, less charged with vapours than with us, discovers a greater number of stars to the observer. The blue vault of heaven sparkles with gold, diamonds, and rubies, which seem to dart forth brighter fires. Nothing can be more magnificent than this spectacle, which the Cretans enjoy for ten months of the year.

To the charms of so delightful a climate, are added other advantages which enhance their value. The island of Crete has hardly any marshes. The waters there are never stagnant, but, flowing from the summits of the mountains in innumerable streams, form delightful fountains, or small rivers, which lose themselves in the sea. The elevation of the ground, whence they take their rise, causes them to have a rapid course, and they form neither lakes nor ponds. For this reason, insects cannot deposit their eggs in them, which would be carried to the sea; and the inhabitants are not tormented, as in Egypt, with those clouds of gnats that fill the houses, and of which the sting is so painful. For the same reason, also, the air is not loaded with those dangerous vapours which rise from the marshes in wet countries.

The hills, and rising grounds, are clothed with various species of thyme, favoury, serpolet, odoriferous rock-roses, and a variety of balsamic plants. Myrtles and laurel roses border the rivulets which meander through the vallies. On every side the country presents you with groves of orange, lemon, and almond trees. The Arabian jessamine blooms in the gardens, which in the spring are decorated with beds of violets. Vast fields are covered with saffron; wild dittany, which has a very fragrant smell, lines the crevices of the rocks: in a word, the mountains, vallies, and plains, exhale on all sides aromatic odors, which perfume the air, and render it delicious to respire. Clouds, ice, and snow, are afflicting objects, which throw a mournful veil over the face of nature; they present to the eye gloomy images, and excite in the mind melancholy reflexions, and painful feelings in the heart. Nay, not unfrequently, they are injurious to health, and produce a general indisposition. But a clear sky has an effect the very reverse. The sight of an unclouded sun inspires man with joy. His genial warmth revives him, and infuses that lively cheerfulness, which springs from the conscious feeling of the happiness he enjoys. In this state of mind every object acquires new beauty. He contemplates with more pleasure the luxuriance of the harvests, and admires with greater enthusiasm the beautiful tints of the flowers; he finds a double sweetness in their perfumes; and, delighted with his own existence, seems to communicate, to every thing around him, the happiness he enjoys. The youth begins to be animated with a new life, and feels himself softly attracted towards another self; his heart palpitates with inquietude and delight, and the tender passion of love fires all his senses. While the aged man, now safe in the harbour, recollects the tumultuous struggles of his younger days, and feeling himself revived by a sudden warmth, would be ready to encounter them anew, did not prudence and nature soon calm the temporary effervescence of his passions.

We must now take leave of Mr. Savary, and conclude our account of this work with the author's observations on the persons of the Turks who inhabit this delightful island.

The beauty of man, his powers, and his health, depend, in general, on the climate he inhabits, his food, and the nature of his occupations. In Crete, the Turk, who is not tormented by ambi-

tion, or the thirst of wealth, whose mind is never occupied by the chimeras of intrigue, who knows not envy, which debases the soul, nor exhausts himself in the pursuit of the sciences, to which we too often sacrifice our health; the Turk, I say, who lives on wholesome and simple aliments, and passes his days amid the flowery fields he cultivates, and in the bosom of his family, who obey and revere him, grows and rises into a Colossus. The salubrity of the air he breathes, the sweet temperature he enjoys, the delightful scenes perpetually before his eyes, and the peaceful life he leads, all contribute to strengthen his body, and preserve his vigour even beneath the snows of age. Hither the sculptor, devoted to his art, and emulating the ancients, should come in search of models. He would see young men of eighteen or twenty, five feet six, or eight inches high, who possess all the graces peculiar to their time of life. Their muscles have still a little plumpness, which will soon assume a bolder character; their cheeks, gracefully rounded, display an animated carnation, and their eyes are full of fire; their chin is covered with a light down, never violated by the razor; their air is full of grace and dignity; and their whole carriage, and every gesture, bespeaks health and vigour.

In men arrived at maturity, the features and outlines are more developed. Their legs are naked; and when their robes are lifted up, the muscles appear boldly prominent: their arms exhibit those signs of strength which were visible in those of the ancient *Æthiæ*: their shoulders are broad, their chests full, and their necks, never straightened by the ligatures, which, from infancy, confine those of the Europeans, retain all the beautiful proportions assigned to that part by nature: no tight breeches, or garters, bind their legs below the knee; that part of their leg, therefore, is never distorted or contracted, nor is the knee too prominent. In a word, all their limbs, unaccustomed to the fetters which confine our motions, and which habit alone could render supportable, preserve their natural form, and that admirable symmetry which constitutes male beauty. When they stand erect, all parts of the body properly support each other. When they walk, they move with an air of dignity, and bodily strength and firmness of mind display themselves in every gesture. Their majestic eye announces that they are accustomed to command. Pride and severity may sometimes be apparent in their looks, but meanness never.

The Mahometans, who inhabit the island of Crete, are such as I have here portrayed them. They are, in genera,

from

from five feet and a half to six feet high. They resemble the ancient statues; and, in fact, such were the men the artists of antiquity took for their models. It is not, therefore, wonderful they should have surpassed us, having a more beautiful nature from which to copy. One day, as I was walking with an officer in the environs of Canea, he exclaimed, at the sight of every Turk that passed, Oh! were I only permitted to choose here seven hundred men, I should have the finest regiment in France!

In a country where the men are so remarkable for bodily strength and dignity of aspect, you may justly conclude, that the women cannot be wanting in beauty and the graces. Their dress does not prevent the growth of any part of the body, but is accommodated to those admirable proportions with which the Creator has decorated the most lovely of his works. All are not handsome; all do not possess charms; but some of them are extremely beautiful, particularly among the Turks. In general, the Cretan women have a luxuriant bosom; a neck gracefully rounded; black eyes full of fire; a small mouth; a nose perfectly well made, and cheeks which health tinges with the softest vermillion. But the oval of their faces is different from that of the women of Europe, and the character of their beauty is peculiar to their nation. I will not attempt a parallel between the two. Whatever is beautiful deserves our homage, though delicacy of sentiment should ultimately fix the taste of a man of just feeling.

During the first year or two of my travels in the eastern countries, accustomed as I had been to the elegant head-dresses of the ladies of France, their curls, and different coloured powder, I could not endure the black hair of the oriental women, and their dress seemed to me to give them a harsh and forbidding air. So difficult is it for reason to disengage itself from the fetters of habit, that I long continued the slave of this prejudice. But, after more mature reflection, their long black locks, artificially plaited, without either powder or pomatum, and which neither spoil their dress, nor soil the furniture of their apartments, appeared to me well calculated to heighten their beauty. Their ebony colour seemed to give more lustre to the fairness of their complexions, and the glow of their cheeks. The rose-water, with which they wash their hair, exhaled an agreeable perfume; and I was delighted with the natural beauty of their tresses. I then changed my opinion, and could not help wishing the European women would not spoil one of their most charming ornaments with the colours of art, so much inferior to those of nature. How much more lovely

would the fair beauty appear, adorned with the pale gold of her flowing locks! How would the dark hair of the brunette, arranged with art, set off the roses of her cheeks! These are the observations of a traveller, who, by comparing the different customs of nations, has been able to banish his prejudices, and is convinced that nature alone is truly beautiful; but he sets little value on, and entreats your excuse for the reflections in which he has here ventured to indulge.

You must not be surprised, that I have not mentioned the Greeks who inhabit the island of Candia, who partake with the Turks the advantages of a serene sky, a pure air, and happy temperature. They enjoy, indeed, in common with them, these precious blessings; but they are oppressed by tyrants. They live in perpetual anxiety and apprehension, and frequently terminate their miserable lives in despair. Excepting the Spachiots, who are less exposed to tyranny, these unfortunate beings have neither the lofty stature, nor the strength, nor the beauty of the Turks. The stamp of servitude is visible in their faces; their looks are crouching, and their features distorted by knavery and meanness. Such is the character of those Cretans, who were once so jealous of their liberty; those experienced and intrepid warriors, who were courted by all nations; and those friends to the arts, which they cultivated amid their shady groves. At present, cowardly and indolent, they live in debasement, and we may read in their degraded countenances, that they are slaves.

The three last letters of this work contain some account of Argenticera, formerly called Cimolus, and of the isle of Melos. These letters were intended to make part of a second volume, in which the author proposed to treat of the other islands of the Archipelago which he had visited; but a premature death, as we have already mentioned, prevented him from accomplishing this design; and the editor has thought proper to give no more of these letters to the public, as Mr. Savary had not put the last hand to the rest before the above melancholy event took place.

With regard to the translation, we have observed a few trifling inaccuracies, but nothing of any consequence. Upon the whole, the work is well executed, and we recommend it to our readers, as we think they will find in it much satisfaction.

A LETTER

A LETTER to the Author of THOUGHTS on the MANNERS of the GREAT. 8vo. Murray. Price 2s.

AT a time when the Sabbath is become a general topic, and its observance made part of a royal proclamation, a history of its institution may not be thought unworthy of notice. The present publication, which is written principally with that view, begins by a recital of all the passages in the Old Testament in which the Sabbath is enjoined, and which may lead to a discovery of the manner the Divine Legislator intended it should be observed. The author concludes, by agreeing with Dr. Watts, Mr. Baxter, and most other writers on the subject, that the observance of the seventh day was peculiar to the Jews, and abrogated, like other ordinances, by the delivery of the new covenant.

The next enquiry is, the authority for what is sometimes called the Christian Sabbath, or the first day of the week. Here we have a recital of arguments from the New Testament, and the early writers of Christianity; the conclusion drawn from which is that, though, at a very early period, a meeting of Christians may be traced in many churches on the first day of the week, yet no peculiar sanctity was affixed to that day till the third century. We shall not enter into this argument here, but refer such of our readers as wish to be satisfied on the subject to the work itself.—In this part also is introduced, an account of the Agapæ, or love feasts of the early Christians, which the author approves very highly, and seems to think the Glasites, or Sandemanians, of the present century, have been very unfairly ridiculed for reviving them. We have next an account of the state of the English law regarding the Sabbath, chiefly, as the author acknowledges, extracted from Burn's Ecclesiastical Law, with the addition of such public acts as have passed since the time of his publication. From all which, the author contends, that the sports licenced by King James make a part of

the Law-sabbath.—The last enquiry is, the policy of the institution. The only objection made to this is, the danger of confounding the laws of men with divine appointments, and thereby judging too hastily of such as disregard an institution, no way, in his opinion, derivable from apostolic authority. This leads our author to propose a method, by which he conceives the setting apart a single day from labor may be rendered particularly useful to the lower classes.

Here he again commends the love-feasts of the early Christians; and, from the authorities quoted by Mr. Bingham, in his *Origines Ecclesiasticæ*, urges, that the amiable effects produced by these friendly entertainments, which, at first, the rich used to prepare for the poor at their own houses, were among the principal causes that contributed to the rapid progress of Christianity.

Of his arguments, in favor of such occasional intercourse between the different branches of the community, the reader may judge from what follows.

You may say, the poor have their own pleasures, their own little societies, and would undervalue such as were proffered them by others. But many have scarcely the means of satisfying the common wants of nature; most by their daily labour earn their daily bread, and the smallest superfluity is utterly beyond their reach. The rest, for want of early advantages, and by perpetual exclusion from more than one kind of society, retain, and for ever must retain the habits of their ancestors, or degenerate into worse. For ever must they look with envy on that splendour they will falsely suppose the summit of happiness, as long as they are kept from a nearer view of it. For ever will they fancy every great man their foe, while all they hear of him is from his rent-gatherer or parliamentary canvasser; and for ever will they oppose plans, how well soever concerted for their own advantage, while they conceive them to originate with such as have an interest ever opposite to their own.

This leads to some general observations on the importance of the manners of the great, from which, as we conceive them much the most useful part of the

the work, we shall select the following.

But lest I should seem to adopt the language of declamation, where we have too much need of plain reasoning, and a fair statement of facts, let us take a view of the poor man's lot, while he is exhausting himself in your service, with no prospect in the decline of life, but the horrors of a poor-house. Before he has arrived at his due strength, the necessities of his parents oblige him to labour. If in maturer life he wishes for a partner to soothe his few leisure moments, how ready are you to blame him for engaging in the cares of a family, without a prospect of supporting it! forgetting that prospect is never likely to appear: or, that to preserve your own luxuries, the race of poverty must be preserved also. Every increase in his family is considered an additional burthen; and the earnings of the man proving insufficient for their increasing wants, the wife is taken from the department assigned her by nature, to add something to the common stock. By perpetual labour, she loses, at an early period, that feminine softness which so delightfully distinguishes the sex: by continual fatigue her temper is soured: as she has assumed a masculine office, the care of her person is beneath her notice; and every thing yielding to the necessity of satisfying immediate wants, order and arrangement are neglected in her family. The man, at his return from daily labour, no longer meets an endearing smile, an eager welcome, a frugal, yet cheerful repast, by a hearth prepared for his reception. His wife can no longer entice him to conversation—the greatest, the sweetest privilege of man; but still continues her employment, almost without regarding him, or, perhaps, distressed at his interruption. Hence a coolness between the two, which must end in dislike; and home soon becomes of all other places the least agreeable. Can we wonder then if men associate with each other, where conversation is unimpeded, and neglect their families, from whom they derive so little comfort? If by degrees all ideas of a common interest are lost; if the order of nature is inverted, and the female alone left to provide for her own and family's wants?

Reformation, as you observe, must begin with the great; and long ago it has begun. Many of the most shining virtues of antiquity are now little more than the common offices expected in society. The omission of such an act as gained *Aeneas* the epithet of Pious, would exclude a modern character from all good company, and the behaviour of *Scipio* would be considered among the common duties of po-

liteness. But the present age is distinguished for more instances of disinterested generosity than any preceding period. With what readiness is every known distress relieved! how freely does the purse open to every subscription: and this frequently accompanied with a delicacy that conceals half the benefactors. It may seem almost unreasonable to require more; but perhaps, in many instances, patronage, with a proper application of *less*, might be attended with greater advantages than a sudden profusion, which may lessen the exertions of the receivers. These instances of generosity evince the goodness of your intentions, and your readiness to assist, where your influence can never extend. But should they lessen your attention, where so much more may be done by your influence, your patronage, and superior knowledge of the true blessings of life? Have your poor neighbours no claim but on your purse? Do they stand in no need of your advice, your protection, and perhaps your severities? If inveterate ill habits have so far debased some, as to render their minds familiar to poverty, with all its attendant wretchedness, despair not to find others, who may be taught the true art of living. Teach them the charms of industry and economy; the advantages of providing against a day of want; the rational enjoyment of each other's society, and the propriety of acquiring the good opinion of, instead of attempting to imitate, their superiors. Encourage a generous spirit of independence, which will make them dread to lose that usefulness by which only it can be supported, and disdain all parochial aids, by which they must forfeit it for ever. Above all, direct your attention to the rising generation. Let your house be the seminary of industry. If a family complain of being burthened by its numbers, instead of a too frequently ill-directed donation, relieve them of a part of their offspring. Should the infants be for a time burthenome, your future prospects regarding them will be proportionably flattering. Many of the females may be usefully disposed of, at an early period, among such of your pensioners and dependants as will teach them the various branches of useful housewifery, and render them a treasure to yourselves, or others. Some may be already qualified, and you will not uncommonly find them anxious to fill useful stations. For the males you never can want employment, while an improvement in agriculture can be suggested, or a superfluous stone remains on your ground. What then are the objects of your ambition? If patronage, it courts you on every side. If influence, how much more honourably may it be thus

thus acquired, and with how much less expense, than the interest of what is consumed in weakening the principles; injuring the morals; and suspending the industry of a borough!

For a few moments, then, contemplate the pleasures that await you, and be convinced, that to be rich is really to be blest. View your fellow creatures, of every age and description, rendered happier; and see your own influence extend itself, in proportion as gratitude, and all the amiable tribe of virtues gain ground among them. Say to yourself, here is a pair, whom well-directed advice, and a better situation, have taught to love one another; here a youth drawn early from the danger of depraved society: here a human being brought nearer his resemblance to an angel.

Here follow some pathetic observations on the unhappy situation of a certain class of females, and the means in the power of the great to prevent it; which we cannot but highly approve, for the delicacy with which they are written, and the fairness of the author's reasoning. The whole concludes with a general hint to all such as have large opportunities of shewing active virtue.

Is there so much to be done, and shall we not, like the virtuous Pagan, blush to lose a day? Shall we afflict our souls, and exact all our labors, bow our heads down like a bulrush, and not loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? Shall we not deal bread to the hungry, and bring the poor that are cast out to our houses. Let us bear in mind the example of our Saviour. Do we hear of his retiring from the world on a sabbath?—of his remitting his accustomed usefulness? would such a conduct have been consistent with his unwearied application to doing the will of his Father?—In the prosecution of which we are told, that he partook of an entertainment at the house of a Pharisee, where he seized this, with every other opportunity, of upbraiding his countrymen with their superstitious perversion of a day intended for enjoyment and ease; assuring them the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath. Instead of sabbatizing then, let us live according to the Lord's life.

What, let me ask, are the marks of this inward and spiritual grace, but a constant sense of gratitude to the Fountain of Grace, and a sincere reliance on his promises of futurity? What this desire after

perfection, but an endeavour to imitate the only perfect Being? What the STANDARD OF RIGHT, but, as his revealed will informs us, the Deity himself? Let us then imitate him in all his imitable attributes. *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*—What are all the duties religion exacts of us, but such as, like benevolence, would to *fiery spirits be irresistible as inclination?* or rather, what are they all but Benevolence? How can we so well keep ourselves unspotted from the world, as when our principal business with it is the melioration of the species? How so well practise the *task of self-denial*, as when the only purpose, for which it can be useful—the happiness of others—is our constant pursuit?

In the introductory part of the work is an elegant little apostrophe to the memory of the late Dr. Jebb.

Of the author's opinions we shall leave our readers to judge from the specimens given; but we think it justice to observe, that this letter is written with much candor, and appears to be the production of a man of benevolence, and a scholar.

SOME HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF GUINEA, its Situation, Produce, and the general Disposition of its Inhabitants; with an Inquiry into the Rise and Progress of the Slave Trade, its Nature, and lamentable Effects. By Anthony Bennezet. 8vo. Phillips. 1788.

The author of this work, one of the earliest and most distinguished advocates for the unfortunate Africans, was born of a respectable family at St. Quintin, in Picardy, in 1713. His father was one of the many Protestants who, after the revocation of the edict of Nantz, sought an asylum in foreign countries. After a short stay in Holland, he settled with his wife and children in London, in 1715.

Our author having received a liberal education, served an apprenticeship in an eminent mercantile house in London: and, in 1731, the whole family removed to Philadelphia. His three brothers followed trade successively;

fively; but he, whose pursuits were directed to other objects than the attainment of wealth, and whose highest gratification consisted in promoting the welfare of mankind, chose the humble, but useful occupation of instructing young people.

Soon after his arrival in America, he joined the people called Quakers. The exertions of that society to abolish slavery, are well known; in these endeavours, no one took a more active part than this worthy citizen of the world. His writings on this subject are numerous. Besides several smaller tracts, which were generally dispersed, he published, in 1762, the following account, of which this is the fourth edition; and, in 1767, he published also his *Caution and Warning to Great Britain and her Colonies*. With the same benevolent views, he not only availed himself of every opportunity of personal application, but corresponded with many persons in Europe, America, and the West Indies.

Though mean in personal appearance, such was the courtesy of his manners, and so evident the purity of his intentions, that he had ready access to people of all descriptions, and obtained the respect of the few whom he failed to influence.

Apprehending that much advantage would arise from instructing the black people in reading and writing, he promoted the establishment of a school in Philadelphia, for that purpose.—The two last years of his life he devoted to a personal attendance at this school, being earnestly desirous that the black people might be better qualified for the enjoyment of that freedom to which many of them had been restored.

The year preceding his decease, he addressed a letter on the subject to our amiable Queen, who, on hearing the writer's character, received it with much condescension. This benevolent man died at Philadelphia, after a few days illness, in the year 1784.

The following passage, extracted from this work, will serve to give the

reader some notion of the shocking inhumanity used in carrying on the slave trade. It is selected from different authors, but they seem to be authors of veracity.

Francis Moor, factor for the English African Company, on the river Gambia, writes, "That there are a number of Negroe traders, called joncoes, or merchants, who follow the slave trade as a business; their place of residence is so high up in the country, as to be six weeks travel from James Fort, which is situate at the mouth of that river. These merchants bring down elephants' teeth, and, in some years, two thousand slaves, most of which, they say, are prisoners taken in war. They buy them from the different Princes who take them; many of them are Bumbonga and Petcharies; nations, who each of them have different languages, and are brought from a vast way inland. Their way of bringing them is tying them by the neck with leather thongs, at about a yard distant from each other, thirty or forty in a string, having generally a bundle of corn or elephants' teeth, upon each of their heads. In their way from the mountains, they travel through very great woods, where they cannot for some days get water; so they carry in skin bags enough to support them for a time. I cannot," adds Moor, "be certain of the number of merchants who follow this trade, but there may, perhaps, be about an hundred, who go up into the inland country, with the goods which they buy from the white men, and with them purchase, in various countries, gold, slaves, and elephants' teeth. Besides the slaves, which the merchants bring down, there are many bought along the river: these are either taken in war, as the former are, or men condemned for crimes; or else people stolen, which is very frequent. Since the slave-trade has been used, all punishments are changed into slavery; there being an advantage on such condemnation, they strain for crimes very hard, in order to get the benefit of selling the criminal."

John Barbot, the French factor, in his account of the manner by which the slaves are procured, says, "The slaves sold by the Negroes, are, for the most part, prisoners of war, or taken in the incursions they make in their enemies territories; others are stolen away by their neighbours, when found abroad on the road, or in the woods; or else in the corn fields, at the time of the year

"when their parents keep them there all the day, to scare away the devouring small birds."

Speaking of the transactions on that part of Guinea called the Slave Coast, where the Europeans have the most factories, and from whence they bring away much the greatest number of slaves, the same author, and also Bosman, says, "The inhabitants of Coto do much mischief, in stealing those slaves they sell to the Europeans, from the upland country. That the inhabitants of Popo exceed the former; being endowed with a much larger share of courage, they rob more successfully, by which means they increase their riches and trade." The author particularly remarks, "That they are encouraged in this practice by the Europeans; sometimes it happens, according to the success of their inland excursions, that they are able to furnish two hundred slaves, or more, in a few days." And he says, "The blacks of Fida, or Whidah, are so expeditious in trading for slaves, that they can deliver a thousand every month."

"If there happens to be no stock of slaves there, the factor must trust the blacks with his goods, to the value of one hundred and fifty, or two hundred pounds; which goods they carry up into the inland country, to buy slaves at all markets, for above six hundred miles up the country, where they are kept like cattle in Europe; the slaves sold there being generally prisoners of war, taken from their enemies like other booty, and perhaps some few sold by their own countrymen, in extreme want, or upon a famine, as also some as a punishment of heinous crimes." So far Barbot's account; that given by William Bosman is as follows: "When the slaves which are brought from the inland countries come to Whidah, they are put in prison together; when we treat concerning buying them, they are all brought out together in a large plain, where, by our surgeons, they are thoroughly examined, and that naked, both men and women, without the least distinction or modesty. Those which are approved as good, are set on one side. In the mean while, a burning iron, with the arms or name of the company, lies in the fire, with which ours are marked in the breast. When we have agreed with the owners of the slaves, they are returned to their prisons, where, from that time forward, they are kept at our charge, and cost us two-pence a day each slave, which serves to subsist them like criminals, on bread and water;

"so that, to save charges, we send them on board our ships the very first opportunity; before which, their masters strip them of all they have on their backs, so that they come on board stark naked, as well women as men; in which condition they are obliged to continue, if the master of the ship is not so charitable (which he commonly is) as to bestow something on them to cover their nakedness. Six or seven hundred are sometimes put on board a vessel, where they lie as close together as it is possible for them to be crowded."

We have only room for one more extract, which alludes to the usage the Negroes meet with when they arrive at the West Indies. It displays the benevolent heart of the author.

When the vessels arrive at their destined port, in the Colonies, the poor Negroes are to be disposed of to the Planters; and here they are again exposed naked, without any distinction of sexes, to the brutal examination of their purchasers; and this, it may well be judged, is, to many, another occasion of deep distress. Add to this, that near connections must now again be separated, to go with their several purchasers; this must be deeply affecting to all, but such whose hearts are seared by the love of gain. Mothers are seen hanging over their daughters, bedewing their naked breasts with tears, and daughters clinging to their parents, not knowing what new stage of distress must follow their separation, or whether they shall ever meet again. And here what sympathy, what commiseration, do they meet with? Why, indeed, if they will not separate as readily as their owners think proper, the whipper is called for, and the lash exercised upon their naked bodies, till obliged to part. Can any human heart, which has not become callous by the practice of such cruelties, be unconcerned, even at the relation of such grievous afflictions, to which this oppressed part of our species are subjected?

In this little volume the curious reader will find a good deal of information respecting Guinea, collected from different authors, who have visited that country, or extracted from the journals of those concerned in the slave trade, whose veracity, on that account, can hardly be called in question.

POETRY,

P O E T R Y.

O D E TO POETRY.

BY MR. RHODES.

HAIL Poetry! celestial maid!
 Who lov'st, reclin'd near purling stream,
 To rest beneath the beechen shade,
 "Wrapt in some wild, fantastic dream,"
 Howe'er intent on other cares,
 O! listen to a suppliant's pray'rs;
 Who fain would view thy ample store,
 And all thy secret haunts explore:
 Where, as enraptur'd Bards have told,
 Whose eyes have glanc'd thy stores along,
 Gnomes, Sylphs, and Sprites their dwelling
 hold,
 Till call'd by thee to grace their song:—
 Where Fairies, clad in loose attire,
 And lighted by the glow-worm's fire,
 Are seen to gambol to the breeze,
 Which nightly sports amongst the trees—
 And while with silent step their round they
 pace,
 The glistening dew-drops gem the hallowed
 place.

II.

Come, bear me to the rocky cell,
 Or sparry grot, or gloomy cave,
 Where oft it pleaseth thee to dwell,
 And listen to the dashing wave;
 Where, to relieve perpetual night,
 Dim lamps emit a feeble light,
 While bound with micromantic tie,
 A thousand weeping virgins lie;
 Who, to enjoy the blaze of day,
 To view once more the azure sky,
 And drink the sun's all-cheering ray,
 Oft heave the unavailing sigh;
 Till some advent'rous Knight appear,
 (Long try'd in war) with shield and spear,
 And dare to break the magic chain,
 And give them liberty again;
 In ruin wide the self-built structure spread,
 And bid despondency erect her drooping head.

III.

Or if those scenes delight thee more
 Which erst thy Ariosto drew,
 O teach my Muse like his to soar,
 And ope thy treasures to my view!
 For all that captivates the mind
 In his aspiring verse we find;
 Where, wrapt in fancy's pleasing guise,
 Conceal'd the useful moral lies;
 Where Chivalry's proud hosts, array'd
 In all the dignity of war,
 Appear a glorious cavalcade,
 Adorn'd with many a trophy'd car:

Where fair Alcina by her charms
 With lawless bliss the bosom warms,
 'Till in Atlanta's reverend form
 Melissa abrogates the charm,
 Recals the soul, for nobler deeds design'd,
 And writes the glowing moral on the mind.

IV.

If such thy votaries of old,
 Some portion of their fire impart,
 Then sportive fancy uncontroul'd
 Shall spurn the rigid rules of art.
 But if in vain thy suppliant plead,
 And if thy mandate hath decreed
 Those magic stores conceal'd to lie,
 Impervious to another's eye;
 Still, O celestial maid! display
 Those scenes where beauty ever reigns,
 And triumphs with unrival'd sway
 O'er rising hills and flow'ry plains,
 And streams that murmur as they flow,
 Might lull to rest the mourner's woe.
 Let pointed satire too be mine,
 Aided by Johnson's nervous line;
 And mine the power to wake the tender sigh,
 And call the pearly drop from pity's melting
 eye.

V.

Then lead me near some winding stream,
 Whose surface ruffled by the breeze,
 Reflects chaite Dian's silver beam,
 Seen trembling through the rustling trees:
 There as I view with joy serene
 The beauties of this tranquil scene,
 If contrast aid the powers of rhyme,
 To make the beautiful sublime,
 Bid the hoarse thunder loudly roar,
 And dark'ning clouds invest the skies,
 While swelling torrents round me pour,
 From rugged rocks, their fresh supplies,
 Which, bursting on the plains below,
 The light'nings transient flashes shew,
 Unfolding to th' astonish'd sight
 A cataract of foaming light:—
 Be scenes like these thy suppliant's award,
 And give thine other stores to some more
 happy Bard.

O D E

TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM III.

BY MR. JACKSON.

ANOTHER age has roll'd away
 Since first on this auspicious day,
 Alarm'd in virtue's cause,
 Our fathers brav'd the menace'd fight,
 And claim'd, in arms, the public right,
 Their liberties and laws.

A senseless Tyrant's iron hand,
Oppressive, crush'd the panting land,
Which sunk beneath the yoke :
While Superstition, at his heels,
Prepar'd her beads, her whips, her wheels,
And Folly urg'd the stroke.

Great WILLIAM came, by Freedom led ;
Abash'd the trembling Tyrant fled,
By conscious guilt dismay'd :
So, flying from the realms of light,
Indignant, Satan fought the night,
And plung'd into the shade.

Like baleful comets in the skies,
The meteors of Ambition rise,
With flames portentous glare ;
Rush headlong on, with lawless force,
And scatter, in their fatal course,
Pisques, pestilence, and war !

Immortal WILLIAM's milder sway,
Like that bright star which rules the day,
With genial influence shone ;
His was the wise, the just decree,
That fix'd on gen'ral Liberty
The basis of the Throne.

Hail ! mighty Shade, ordain'd by fate,
Beyond the short, the flinted date
To mortal life assign'd,
To check the Tyrant's impious rage,
Thy patriot name, in every age,
The Guardian of mankind.

That name, as down the stream of time
It proudly floats, in state sublime,
Shall keep the world in awe ;
Shall shake the wav'ring Monarch's soul,
And fright him to the just controul
Of order and of law.

To God's decree, the right divine,
'Tis only glories such as thine
Uncerring titles bring :
'Twas doom'd by nature and by fate,
That he, whose virtue saves a state,
Was born to be a King.

MELANCHOLY.

BY MR. S. GIBBONS,

OFFSPRING of sullen pride and woe,
Melancholy, thee I'd sing ;
Whose presence makes bleak Eurus blow,
The raven flap his sable wing.

Of in the gloom of night thou sitt'st
Beneath the time-worn mould'ring
tower,

Nocturnal, where the screech-owl flits
Brooding o'er Misfortune's pow'r.

Anon, thou stalk'st athwart the aisle
Of abbey, fallen to decay,
Contemplating the gothic pile,
Where superstition own'd thy sway.

Erst did here the hooded Fryar,
By glimmering taper count his beads,
His breast ne'er glow'd with social fire,
Severely rigid were his deeds.

For active virtue form'd was man,
Our mutual wants claim mutual aid :
We frustrate our Creator's plan,
By seeking solitude and shade.

Submissive, grateful, and resign'd
Should be probationers on earth ;
Religion pure hath not enjoin'd
Pale penance, of monastic birth.

Dire Melancholy thou dost arm
With dagger keen thy victim's hand ;
Since life, thou say'st, no more can charm,
Its torturing ills no more withstand.

Thou whirl'st him to the reeking cell,
Where black Despair, thy sister twin,
Delights in Misery's horrid yell,
And Suicide's atrocious sin.

HORACE, BOOK II. ODE XVI.

IMITATED.

TO A FRIEND.

*Otium Divos regat in patenti
Prensus Egæo, &c.*

WHEN stormy seas with fury roll,
And bursting thunder shakes the pole,
The frighten'd sailor sees
The horrors of the deep appear,
And while pale death approaches near,
He prays aloud for ease.

So Ruffia's sons, midst din of war,
While stern Bellona mounts her car,
No doubt wish for the fame ;
But neither sceptres, wealth, nor power,
Can bring it for a single hour
To Kings—nor yet to them.

Who lives on little, with content,
Reflecting on a life well spent,
Can balmy sleep enjoy ;
No luxury adorns his board,
But what his fortune can afford,
And things that never cloy.

Since life uncertain is, and short,
Why should men with their moments sport,
And after shadows fly ?
Although they run to Indian climes,
And turn Nabobs, yet their crimes
And rapine ne'er will die.

The

The cruel fates cut Manners' thread,
And number'd him among the dead :
Each hour each minute shews
The base are spar'd, while heroes die,
And none can tell the reason why—
'Tis Heaven alone that knows.

You rich in money, plate, and land,
Have twenty servants at command,
Be happy if your wife :
A spark of genius me is given,
It is a curse—yet, I thank heaven,
And vulgar souls despise.

TRUE BENEVOLENCE.

Al! why repine, Philander, at thy lot?
View the poor peasant in his humble cot;
His little offspring pierce him with their cries;
On the straw pallet, lo! the mother lies,
Devoid of comfort, and of generous aid,
By grief and sickness sunk into a shade.
Ye rich, ye great, who waste in sumptuous
fare
What might so many rescue from despair,
Oh! learn the truest luxury to know,
That of relieving indigence and woe :
Assuage the widow's and the orphan's tear,
You'll find the joy you give, return sincere.
Let not the manners of the present age
Unnerve the Hero, and infect the Sage.
To soothe th' afflicted, succour the distressed,
To pour the balm in virtue's suffering breast,
Of pallid fear will even death disarm,
When earthly grandeur loses power to charm.

G.

NOVEMBER.

AN ODE.

BY MR. J. H. WYNN.

BRIGHT Summer, with his train, far off
retires,
Nor blushing fruits the mellow season
yields ;
Nor mild autumnal suns diffuse their fires ;
Nor yellow harvests wave upon the fields.

The glowing tints that purpled o'er the
east,
What time at morn' the shepherd sought
his fold ;
The billowy clouds that painted all the
west,
And deck'd declining Phœbus' car with
gold ;

These fade away :—On the steep moun-
tain's brow,
The grey mist hovers in the lowering sky,
Veiling the sun ; and in the dale below,
The rising vapours dim his evening eye.

Lo WINTER issues from his bleak abode,
To spread his darksome-mantle o'er the
deep,
To scatter wild commotion all abroad,
From the rude caves where infant tem-
pests sleep :

These wake to lord it o'er the subject seas ;
The gentle streams, in icy fetters bound,
Shall soon forget to murmur to the breeze,
Or kiss their banks so late with flow'r-
ets crown'd.

Those flow'rets charm no more :—the
leafless groves
And meads despoil'd of verdure now
appear—
The feather'd songsters cease to chaunt
their loves,
Whilst all things droop with the declin-
ing year.

Nature seems dead, as if her genial pow'r
Were borne to some far distant fervid
clime,
Where SUMMER still leads on the smiling
hours,
And reigns incessant through the length
of time ;

While *here* the rudely-rushing snow's de-
scend
As the mad gusts with rising fury blow,
Or feeble rays from heav'n's bright lamp
extend,
Obliquely glancing o'er a waste of snow.

Yet this sad season can its joys supply :—
The song, the dance, the theatre de-
light
To warm the bosom, to enchant the eye ;
And beauty, mirth, and social bliss in-
vite.

While these prevail ; while books and
converse please,
While virtue, freedom, can their charms
display,
The cheek health-painted and the mind
at ease,
Shall bid NOVEMBER rival blooming
MAY.

TO A

YOUNG LADY, ON HER BIRTH-DAY.

WRITTEN IN AUTUMN.

BY MR. S. GIBBONS.

How fast decays the lively bloom
Of yon empurpled dale !
How soon will Winter's withering reign
O'er every scene prevail !

3 C 2

Thus

Thus time, Melissa, may consume
The rose that decks thy face,
Dim the blue lustre of thine eye,
Rob beauty of each grace.

But sense and virtue still can charm,
Though wrinkled age appear;
These shall endear thee to thy friend,
Through each revolving year.

Unruff'd by the adverse gale,
May life serenely glide;
Or should disaster intervene,
In Power supreme confide.

Inspir'd by hope, Melissa then
The bliss can antedate
Of bright abodes, where endless joys
The truly good await.

V E R S E S

ENGRAVED UPON A HUNTING HORN.

LEAVE, studious youth, the cloisters grey,
Health in the woodlands now abounds,
Hear, from this horn, th' inspiring lay,
Each vale shall lengthen out the sounds.

And thou, Oh Dian, with thy train,
Be present, rouse the lurking prey;
Nor let their covers these restrain,
Course as the wind the open way.

So thy recesses unenjoy'd,
No beast goat-footed shall come near;
Nor by Aëdon thou annoy'd,
When bathing in the fountain clear.

THE COMPLAINT.

WHEN first I saw, upon the plain,
Fair Delia's rising charms,
My bosom felt a pleasing pain,
And all love's soft alarms.
I vainly thought the would prove kind,
And ease my love-sick heart;
But little did I know her mind—
'Twas proof 'gainst all my art.

She'd laugh, she'd sing, she'd toy and play,
But, when I told my tale,
And bade her name the happy day,
My words could not prevail.
Too soon, alas! the cause I knew—
Won by a richer swain,
She to his happy arms flew,
And left me to complain.

Where joyful scenes delight the gay,
No more I wish to go,
But near some lonely riv'let stray,
That murmurs to my woe;
To the whisp'ring winds complain,
While tears stream from my eyes;

And to the rocks relate my pain,
That echo back my sighs.

The fields and groves, that once look'd gay,
No longer charm my sight;
I pass, 'midst grief, the ling'ring day,
'Midst tears the gloomy night.
No pleasure now, alas! I find—
Each hour adds to my grief,
And since my fair hath prov'd unkind,
Death must bring me relief.

Extended near some mossy cave,
Which mantling branches shade,
I'll court the dark and silent grave,
For all life's joys are fled:
And when my eyes are seal'd by death,
Let this my tomb adorn:
"A hapless youth lies here beneath,
"Kill'd by fair Delia's scorn."

JUVENAL

L A P I E.

TABLE.

UN côté blanc & l'autre noir,
Vint au monde Margot la Pie;
Le cigne & le corbeau, voilà sa compagnie;
Sans l'un des deux on ne pouvoit la voir.

Avec le cigne, en promenade,
Du côté blanc elle faisoit parade;
Si le corbeau la rencontroit,
Le noir alors seul le monstroit.

Etoit-elle, par aventure,
La cause de quelque malheur?
Le corbeau recevoit l'injure;
Le côté noir causoit l'etreur.

Le cigne passant avec elle,
Donnoit-il preuve de bonté?

Honneur au côté blanc, c'est Margot qu'on
appelle,
Pour lui donner le prix qu'un autre a mérité.

Homme à double visage est l'objet de ce conte,
Si vous le rencontrez, fuyez-le d'un grand
cœur:
Près de lui faites bien, il en aura l'honneur;
Et s'il fait quelque mal, il est sur votre
compte.

E P I G R A M M E.

A un mauvais poëte.

DEVANT toi, de tes vers on vante l'éle-
gance,
On te dit qu'ils sont bons: cet encens t'étour-
dit;
Damon, contente-toi de ce que l'on en dit,
Mais ne t'informe pas de ce que l'on en pense.
MONTHLY

MONTHLY REGISTER.

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TUESDAY, Nov. 20.

THERE being a Council at the Cockpit, it was near four o'clock before the Lord Chancellor came down to the House of Peers, where there was a very full attendance.

As soon as his Lordship was seated on the woolfack,

Lord Dover (Sir Joseph Yorke) was introduced with the usual solemnities, and his patent of peerage being read, he took the oaths and his seat. He was introduced between Lord Amherst and Lord Sidney.

The Lord Chancellor then rose and observed, that though their Lordships had met in pursuance of the last prorogation, yet it had been the general practice to summon the House to meet for the dispatch of business. To account for this omission on the present occasion, he thought it incumbent on him to say, that from the situation which he had the honour to hold, it was his province to receive his Majesty's commands for proroguing or summoning the Parliament, but such was the lamentable disorder with which his Majesty was afflicted, and such the severity of his illness, that he could not approach his royal person to receive his commands.

The Lord President of the Council (Lord Camden) said, that it had no doubt been the general practice to give forty days notice previous to the meeting of Parliament for the dispatch of business. There was no law however which required this, though it had been a custom which had been in general adopted by his Majesty's Ministers to prevent any complaint in the House of their being taken by surprise.—There were, however, several precedents in the history of this country, where in cases of rebellion, and other emergencies of State, Parliament had been summoned on a notice of fourteen days, and he conceived the critical situation of his Majesty's health a sufficient reason to justify the present deviation from the usual practice.—He did not find however any instance in which either House of Parliament had proceeded to the consideration of any national business till the Session had been opened in the usual form. It was his intention, therefore, first to move, That the House do ad-

ourn till this day fortnight. If their Lordships should agree to that, he would then move, That the House be summoned, and that the Lord Chancellor be empowered to write letters of summons to their Lordships, requiring their attendance on that day.

The motions being severally put and agreed to nem. diss. the House immediately adjourned till Thursday the 4th of December next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, Nov. 20.

AT half past three the House was very full, and Mr. Pitt having entered, the Speaker addressed the House as follows:

"Gentlemen,

"There being no commission for the further prorogation of Parliament; is it your pleasure that I now take the chair?"

This being assented to, the Speaker took the chair accordingly, and informed the House, that during the recess he had issued four new writs, in the room of three deceased Members, and of Sir James Harris, called up to the House of Lords.

Several Members took the oaths and their seats.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then rose and said, that from unhappy circumstances Parliament was compelled to meet without the usual previous notice; the lamentable continuance of his Majesty's indisposition rendered it impossible for his Majesty's servants to receive his commands, so that a further prorogation could not possibly take place. Very few instances could be found in history where Parliament were similarly situated; in cases the nearest in resemblance to the present, it had been the custom to adjourn. The delicate situation of our affairs suggested the expediency of adopting the same conduct upon this occasion, he should therefore submit to the sense and candour of the House the propriety of adjourning for a fortnight; if the House should do him the honour of agreeing to this motion, he would follow it by another, which to enforce as full an attendance as he had the happiness of seeing at present would clearly be necessary; a call of the House on this day fortnight was the subject of his intended second motion; and if, contrary to the sincere wishes and fervent prayers of the nation, the present melancholy

State

State of his Majesty's health should be protracted, it would be the indispensable duty of Parliament to proceed with all due and suitable solemnity to the dispatch of business of the first importance; and in order to give efficacy to the call of the House, it would be expedient to send to all the Members circular letters, requiring their punctual attendance on the day mentioned. He knew of nothing further which it was necessary to add; he should therefore move, "That this House do, at its first rising, adjourn to this day fortnight. The Speaker having put the question,

it was immediately carried *nem. con.*

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then moved, "That on this day fortnight there be a call of this House."

This question was put and carried in the same manner.

The third motion was then read, "that the Speaker should write to the different Sheriffs in the kingdom, directing them to inform the Members in their respective counties of the intended call of the House, and to require their attendance," to which the House agreed, and immediately adjourned.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FERRARA, Sept. 23.

THE cabinet of medals belonging to our University was robbed in the night of the 18th; the weight of the pieces of gold and silver, of which it consisted, might amount to 2000 crowns; but the value of the medals, which are mostly of the middle age, and very scarce, is considerable. After many councils held by the Reformer of the Studies and the Cardinal Legate, they agreed to offer a pardon and 100 ducats to the thief himself, or any of his accomplices, who would confess the crime, and enable them to recover the collection. This had the desired effect, for as soon as the decree was published, one of the accomplices went to the Lieutenant of the Police, and told him the place where they had hid the medals till they could dispose of them, so that they are all recovered. The informer has been rewarded with his pardon and 100 ducats, and has impeached the rest of his accomplices, who will be tried.

Vienna, Oct. 15. The news of the taking of Novi on the 3d inst. by assault, was received here on the 10th, and that the Turkish garrison, consisting of 600 men, had surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Forty pieces of cannon, with large quantities of every sort of ammunition, were found in the place.

By letters of the 9th it appears that the Emperor was still in the neighbourhood of Lugos; that his advanced post occupied the rising grounds on one side of Caransebes; and that the Turks remained masters of the heights on the other side of that town.

Copenhagen, Oct. 21. A new and more conspicuous light-house has just been erected by order of this government on the Island of Anholt. It is of a cylindrical form, 30 Danish ells in height, and 39 ells in circumference; and on the summit is placed a furnace, or grate, two feet nine inches high, and five feet in diameter; so that the flame, being stronger and more than double the former altitude (which was only 22 ells), will be observed at a much greater distance. The edifice is 2,500 Danish ells to the westward of the old building: it is 3,100 ells from the east point of the island, and 56 ells above the surface of the water. The fire will be kindled in the new light-house on the 14th of November at half an hour after sun-set; and from that time the old light will be discontinued. The Danish ell is two English feet nearly.

Vienna, Oct. 22. The Emperor, after visiting the fortresses of Temeswar and Arad, (at the first of which places Marshal Pelegrini remains as Governor) returned to the army on the 15th instant, which, on the 16th had reached a village called Soka, and was expected to arrive at Apova, on the banks of the Danube, this day or to-morrow. The division under General Wartenleben, consisting of about 15,000 men, has retaken possession of Caransebes, and extended its patrols as far as Cornia. General Dalton advances with his corps to Werfchetz and Weiskirchen. The Turks remain masters of Meadia, Schupaneck, and Orsova; but they have abandoned Pancova; and their principal force occupies the two banks of the Danube in the neighbourhood of Belgrade.

Vienna, Oct. 29. An action took place on the 20th or 21st instant, between a division of the Emperor's army, on its march from Sakolo to Opova, and a considerable body of Turks: the latter, after having cut to pieces a battalion of Austrian Chasseurs, amounting to 350 men, were at length compelled to retire. They, however, carried off in their retreat all the pontons, and also the draught horses which were attached to that division. The Emperor's head quarters were on the 23d at Jakuba, about nine English miles from Pancova. Marshal Laudohn is still engaged in the siege of Gradisca.

Madrid.

Madrid, Nov. 3. On the 28th of October, the Infanta Donna Mariana was delivered of a Prince; but her Royal Highness was soon afterwards taken ill of the small-pox, and died yesterday evening.

Toulouse, Oct. 23. The return of our Parliament took place on the 20th. All the members were ordered by letters de cachet to meet on the 17th, to receive the King's orders. Those letters were sent on the 2d, by Mr. de Monchenu, commandant in second in Vivarais, who is come to replace the Count de Perigord here. Before they met in form, the magistrates assembled at the first president's; and agreed to request two of their brethren to resign their offices, having shewn themselves opposite in principles and sentiments to the rest.

On the day of meeting, Mr. de Monchenu went to the Palais at six in the morning, to order the guard away, and take the seals of the registers.

The magistrates were conducted to the Palais by a cavalcade of 150 young gentlemen in uniform, having plumes of feathers in their hats, armed with lances and bucklers, and preceded by a band of martial music. The streets through which they passed, some of which were carpeted; and others had pillars with festoons of flowers, and inscriptions in Latin, French, and the Provincial dialect, were crowded with multitudes from all parts.

Paris, Oct. 30. M. de Lesseps, vice-consul of Cronstadt, interpreter of the Russian language in the Count de la Peyrouse's ship, arrived at Versailles the 17th instant, and was introduced to his Majesty by M. de la Luzerne, Secretary of the Navy. He had been charged to convey to France the dispatches, journals, and maps, remitted to him by the said Count on the 30th of September, 1787, at the port of Avatska, or St. Peter and St. Paul, situated at the Southern extremity of the peninsula of Kamtschatka. The vessel that the government of Russia annually sends from Okotskoi to Avatska, having failed last year, Mr. de Lesseps resolved to coast all along the Okotskoi, or Pengina sea, in order to reach the grand continent of Asia; but the bad weather, the continental storms, and hurricanes, forced him to remain on the peninsula till the 27th of the following January. It was only at that epoch he could begin his journey along the coast of Kamtschatka. When at the isthmus, which joins that land to the continent, he followed the Eastern coast of Pengina sea; he passed through Jugiga, and after a most dangerous journey reached Okotskoi the 5th of May. This part of his journey was performed on sledges drawn by Kamtschadalian dogs, or rein-deer, after the manner of the countries he went

through. The overflowing of immense torrents, on account of the melting of the ice, kept him at Okotskoi till the 8th of June. The moment the Lena was navigable, he embarked and remounted as far as Juskoutski, where he arrived the beginning of August. From thence he set out on the 11th, and passed through Tomsk, Tobolski, Catherineburg, Kasan, Nynei-Novogorod, Moscow, Tuer, and Novogorod-Velikoi, crossing all the wide rivers of Siberia. He performed this journey on a kibitk, or Russian carriage, unhung, and arrived at St. Peterburgh the 21st of September. He left that capital the 26th, at six o'clock in the morning, after having received Count de Segur's dispatches, his Most Christian Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at the Empress of Russia's Court. His excellent constitution, his activity, and zeal, enabled M. de Lesseps to support the fatigues and dangers that must inevitably attend a painful and long journey of 4000 leagues, through unfrequented and thinly inhabited countries. He arrived at Versailles the 17th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. He acknowledges that the ready assistance he met with from all the Russian commanders, whose protection he had a right to expect, facilitated very much his extraordinary journey.

Paris, Nov. 9, 1788. On Thursday was held the first Assembly of the Notables. His Majesty went there in state to open the Session about eleven o'clock, and returned about two. After a short speech from the King, followed by another from the Keeper of the Seals, on the general motives of his Majesty for calling them together, Mons. Necker entered into a particular detail of the questions which were to be laid before them.

WEST INDIA INTELLIGENCE.

St. Jago de la Vega, Aug. 7. A most diabolical attempt to poison a whole family, was made some few evenings ago, at Vineyard Pen, in Liguanea, the property of William Smith, Esq. Last Thursday morning, (as it would appear) one of the servants belonging to the Pen, had drawn some water of a fine well within the premises, for culinary purposes, which was observed to be unusually discoloured, with a filthy green sediment at the bottom. These appearances created the most violent suspicion, and the well was presently afterwards searched, when the dead body of a dog was then taken out, with its throat newly cut, its entrails drawn, and the mouth, as well as the cavity of the belly, filled with verdigrise and brass pins. Mr. Smith has offered a reward of 100 pistoles, to discover the malicious and ne-

farious

ferious person who was the author of this black business, and we sincerely hope that his endeavours to bring the wretch to justice may be crowned with success. We should not forget to add, that some of the officers of his Majesty's 3d regiment, at Up-Park Camp, who, for a considerable time past, have used no other than the Vineyard Pen water, narrowly escaped the effects of this poisonous fluid; some of which they had actually boiled for breakfast the same morning, but providentially threw it away on account of its alarming colour; and we are informed that a medical gentleman of that regiment, drank a glass of the water, and was shortly afterwards attacked by the most alarming symptoms, and the deadliest sickness; but recourse being had to proper antidotes, he was enabled to discharge the greatest part of the baneful beverage, or he would inevitably have lost his life. We are happy to add, that the gentleman in question, though he was in a most dangerous situation, is now in a fair way of recovery.

Kingston, Aug. 16. On Monday last a free American Negro man went to the house of Mr. M'Gillivray, near Bath, and struck a male slave of his own colour, the property of that gentleman, to the heart with a lance, who immediately expired, and then murdered three of his children. He next assailed the wife of the deceased, and wounded her so desperately with an axe, that very little hopes are entertained of her life. He was shortly afterwards apprehended with a loaded musket in his hand, and committed to prison for trial.

Dominica, Sept. 3. The possessions of our planters here have been laid waste in a most dreadful manner by the late hurricane; but our neighbours at Martinico have suffered far more. So horrid a scene was scarce ever experienced before. The dreadful tempest in 1766 is not to be compared to it. Whole parishes are destroyed, and the number of persons who have lost their lives is so great, that we dare not mention what report estimates it at, for fear of exaggeration. In some parts of the island there is not a building to be seen. At Caravel the sea left its bed, and carried off all the houses. Above 60 negroes were swept away by the torrent, or crushed by the fall of the houses. There is scarce a planter in those cantons who has not lost some negroes. The tempest seems to have taken its direction towards the North, and did not spread far. It has not, we believe, left any traces for more than 10 or 12 leagues, as St. Lucia has not suffered; but, we fear, it was felt at St. Christopher's and Barbadoes.

Aug. 21. Sunday morning an affair of honour was determined at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, between Nathaniel

Philips and James Donaldson, Esqrs. attended by their seconds. They fired at the same instant of time, and the ball of the former took place, and shot Mr. Donaldson through the heart, who expired immediately. The survivor has the consolation to reflect, that he offered every reasonable satisfaction to prevent this unhappy business, but the deceased refused to accept of any apology short of a public one, which Mr. Philips, from the circumstances of the case, did not feel himself disposed to make.

A M E R I C A.

Worcester County, Aug. 28.

On Tuesday last week, in the afternoon, the back parts of this county were visited with a most furious tornado, which came from the South West, and in its course extended many miles in width. By accounts from New York, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire, we learn, that it was severely felt in parts of all those states; as yet we have not been favoured with very particular accounts of the damage sustained by this convulsion of nature, but as it extended over a large track of country, it must be great. At Putney, in the state of Vermont, a number of barns were unroofed, several cattle killed by the falling of trees, which in some places were broken off, and in others torn up by the roots; much grain and many fruit-trees were destroyed. In Dummerston a young child was killed by the falling of a tree, as it was running with its mother across a wood to the house of the nearest neighbour; scarcely a town in that vicinity, that has not suffered considerably by cattle being killed, buildings unroofed and blown down, and in some places the devastation is marked by acres of sturdy oaks being swept from their places by this terrible besom of destruction. The wind blew for about 15 minutes Southwardly, and then suddenly varied South-Westwardly, seemingly with redoubled violence. The effects of the tornado appear similar in Peterham, Westminster, and other towns in this country. The roads in many places were blocked up with fallen trees, some of which were two feet in diameter, and were broken off only a few feet from the ground, and many were violently removed several yards distance.

Halifax, in Nova Scotia, Aug. 28. Monday the detachment of the Royal Artillery, commanded by apt. D'Vernot, was reviewed by his Royal Highness Prince William Henry. They appeared in excellent order, and by their dexterity, both in the use of their field pieces and small arms, met with the fullest approbation.

On Tuesday his Royal Highness reviewed the 4th, or King's own regiment. The regiment went through the manual exercise,

exercife, firings, and a great variety of evolutions, with a promptitude and exactness that did honour both to the officers and men.

"After the review, the Prince returned on board his fhip. But the Society of Blue and Orange, of which his Highnefs is a member, being to dine together at the barracks of the 4th regiment, his Highnefs landed about four o'clock, as a Prince of the Empire. Previous to his landing, the Standard of England was difplayed at the maff-head of the Andromeda, on which a royal falute was fired from all the King's fhips in the harbour, and from the Governor's yacht. The fhips yards were handfomely manned with failors, neatly drefled in their blue jackets and clean white trowfers, and who, after the falute, gave three cheers. Commodore Sandys, in his barge, with his broad pendant, Capt. Minchin and Capt. Buller in their refpective barges, with their pendants, left their fhips to accompany the Prince afhore. On his entering his barge and leaving his fhip, the Royal Standard was ftruck at the maff-head, and a very neat one difplayed in his barge. The fhips again fired a royal falute, and manned their yards as before. His Royal Highnefs was received at the fhip by his Excellency the Governor, Brigadier General Ogilvie, and feveral other gentlemen of the army, uncovered, and by them efcorted, through a line of troops, to the place of entertainment. A royal falute was fired by a detachment of the artillery, drawn up near the fhip, immediately upon the Prince's landing; and another falute was fired from the citadel, as foon as his Highnefs reached the barracks. About half paff eight o'clock in the evening, the troops of the garrifon were drawn up on the fummit of Citadelhill, and fired a *feu de joye*, accompanied by a difcharge of 63 cannon.

New York, Oct. 14. The Congress are now fitting, for the purpofe of deliberating on the fteps neceffary to be taken from two of the ftates having refufed to adopt the article of general confederacy. Mr. Ruffen is fet off for Wilmington, in North Carolina, to confer with the Government of that State on their refufal.

A new frigate of 28 guns, for the fervice of the United States, has been juft launched here, called the Commerce.

SCOTLAND

Stromnefs, Oct. 10. About four o'clock in the morning of Saturday, the 4th curt. the large mildam above Pabdale, (a little diftance from Kirkwall), broke down, and the water came with fuch force, that it carried before it two houfes, in which were four people, who were

fwept along with the torrent, and drowned. After that it filled the ftreets, and was full four, and, in fome places, fix feet high. A number of people were nearly fuffocated, or drowned, in their beds, and all the goods on ground floors were loft or damaged.

The day following, about twelve o'clock, a very high gale of wind came on, and continued with fuch violence for more than five hours, that two fhips and one brigantine was driven on fhore, in the harbour of Stromnefs, which were no ways damaged; but, between four and five, the Fame, of Workington, from Drontheim, for Newry, with deals, lying in Cairfton roads, clofe by the harbour of Stromnefs, drove on a fhip to leeward of her, by which her mainmalt was carried away, and foon after the fhip was forced on fhore. A fhip belonging to Greenock, alfo riding at anchor in Cairfton roads, drove foul of the William, of Ayr, Daniel Duncan maffer, from Peterfburgh, for Ayr, with iron, hemp, tallow, and deals; and the floop's fmall bower anchor parting, the drove faft towards the rocks, which forced the maffer to cut away the maff, which faved the vefel going on fhore; and the next morning, being moderate, fhe was towed into Stromnefs harbour, a mere wreck to appearance. Such deftruction among the fhipping has not been feen here for feveral years back.

Edinburgh, Nov. 5. The anniversary of the Revolution, in 1688, was obferved here yefterday, as a day of public thanksgiving. No bufinefs was done at any of the public offices, or by the inhabitants of this city in general. The churches were all remarkably crowded, more fo, perhaps, than on any former holiday; and the Minifters, from their different pulpits, after reading the Aft of the General Affembly of the Church of Scotland, endeavoured to imprefs on the minds of their hearers, the gratitude they owed to Almighty God, for the bleffings they derived from the glorious revolution, by which the nation was delivered from civil and religious oppreffion, proper bounds fet to the royal prerogative, and the liberties and juft rights of the people fecured and confirmed; and exhorted them, by every conftitutional means, to preferve and tranfmit all thefe rights and privileges, which they now enjoyed under the illuftrious Houfe of Hanover, inviolate to the lateft pofterity.

Nov. 15. Yefterday was held the eighth anniversary of the Antiquaries of Scotland. The meeting was numerous and refpectable. The Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan delivered an elegant eulogium upon its institution, and expatiated upon the advantages which had redounded to literature

ration, and to the arts, by the patronage of our gracious Sovereign. The society afterwards dined together, and, being impressed with the most sensible regret for the present unhappy conjuncture, adjourned much sooner than usual, upon an occasion always dedicated to festivity and conviviality.

Nov. 20. The subscription for erecting a monument in memory of the glorious Revolution, set on foot by the Society of Independent Friends, goes on well.—There was near 3000. subscribed by twenty members, at the meeting where the subscription was proposed, and many considerable subscriptions have since been received; amongst which is 50*l.* by the Duke of Portland, being the same sum subscribed by his Grace to the monument to be erected in England, in commemoration of the same important event.

Dundee, Nov. 6. Yesterday being the centenary of the revolution 1688, it was held here with every mark of attention. There were discourses peculiarly adapted to the day, delivered in all the churches. Towards evening all the bells were set a ringing, and a general and very extraordinary illumination took place. One gentleman, in particular, had five large windows, containing 24 candles each, and some smaller windows with numbers of candles. I am told there were in all about 150 candles in this house, and most beautifully arranged they were. In the evening, numbers of gentlemen met, in different parties, to celebrate the day.—Amongst others, there was a full and respectable meeting of the revolution club; near 50 members were present. The Rev. Dr. Blairhall in the chair. George Dempster, Esq. member for the town, was so good as to attend. He at first politely declined the chair, but, at the same time, expressed himself very handsomely on the occasion of meeting. After a variety of loyal and well-adapted toasts were given, a number of revolution songs were sung, and a great deal of mirth and good humour had circulated, the whole concluded with every demonstration of joy and satisfaction, and the utmost decorum.

I R E L A N D.

Cork, Nov. 3. Saturday evening, between the hours of six and seven o'clock, Cornelius Desmond, coachman to Doctor Longfield, was found murdered in a lane near the barracks; one Edward Brien, alias Cowlagorow, a publican, suspected to be concerned in the said murder, was apprehended yesterday morning, by Rowland Sharp, city jailor, and lodged in Bridewell.

Tuam, Oct. 30. A very unfortunate and shocking affair happened near this town

yesterday, about four o'clock in the afternoon, on the lands of Guaranes, between Hyacinth Kirwan, of Gardenfield, Esq. and Mr. Patrick Kirwan, (nephew to the said Hyacinth) of Marles, in this county.

It appears that those gentlemen had a warm altercation respecting the collection of the rent of part of Guaranes, and each of them being well armed, attended on the ground, in order to assert his claim, where the latter of those unfortunate men received the contents of a musket in the bottom of his belly, and instantly fell and expired.

The unfortunate perpetrator of the above melancholy act, was immediately apprehended, and committed to jail, by the Rev. Edward Burton, our worthy and active Magistrate, escorted by a party of the 66th regiment quartered here, in order to stand his trial at the next assizes to be held for this county.

The Coroner and jury have brought in their verdict manslaughter at large.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Portsmouth, Oct. 29. Yesterday morning, at one o'clock, a Court Martial, consisting of Rear Admiral Peyton, as President, and the respective Captains of the ships of war now in commission at this port, assembled on board his Majesty's ship Edgar, to try the First and Second Lieutenants of the Phaeton frigate, commanded by Captain George Dawson.

The charges against these two officers were grounded on the evidence given at a Court Martial held on the surgeon of the Phaeton, while that ship was in Gibraltar Bay. These charges accuse both the First and Second Lieutenants of aiding and assisting in broils and riots, that frequently happened in the gun-room of that ship, and of the First Lieutenant having been beaten by the Surgeon, and calmly submitting to it, instead of making the same publicly known to the Commanding Officer, that proper means might have been pursued for a Court Martial on the original delinquent.

The First Lieutenant was first brought to trial; and it appeared, after a strict examination of the witnesses on the part of the prosecution, that he had, on the 6th of July, 1787, at twelve o'clock at night, in the gun-room of the said ship, received from the Surgeon a most severe and cruel beating, that confined him some days to his cabin, and that he did not take the smallest notice of it. This was made very evident; but it did not in the least appear that he had aided or assisted in any degree in fomenting the other quarrels which had taken place on board the Phaeton. On the other hand, it came out that he did every thing in his power to quell these

these dissensions, so far as was his duty as First Lieutenant.

The evidence being closed on the part of the prosecution at four o'clock in the afternoon, the President addressed the prisoner, and informed him, "That the Court was ready to attend to what he had to advance. On this the witnesses on his part were called in, to adduce such testimony as he deemed necessary to substantiate his defence. After which, in a manly and handsome manner, he requested the indulgence of the Court till this morning, when he should be fully prepared for his defence. The Court adjourned in consequence, but this morning assembled again, on board the *Edgar*, at nine o'clock, and the Lieutenant is now making his defence.

Oct. 30. This morning the Court Martial finished on board the *Edgar*, on the two Lieutenants of the *Phaeton*; the result of which is, the Lieutenants are dismissed their ship.

Newcastle, Oct. 25. Monday se'nnight, in the afternoon, the house of Mr. John Glover, of Fleethbeck, near Kirkby-Lonsdale, was broken into, while the family were at work in the fields, and robbed of ninety guineas, six silver tea-spoons, and one pair of fugar tongs. Diligent search was made for the thief without effect; but on Wednesday a man came to the house, declared he had committed the robbery on the day above mentioned, and instantly restored every article except one guinea, which he had expended. On his examination before William Moore, Esq. he described very minutely his manner of effecting the robbery; declared he was in great distress at the time he committed it; that he afterwards went into Lancashire, and had travelled about thirty miles, when being stung with remorse for the crime, he found himself unable to proceed, and immediately formed the resolution of returning to confess his guilt, and deliver the property to the lawful owner. He was to have been committed to Appleby goal, the next day, but found means to make his escape from the constables.

Shrewsbury, Nov. 7. On the 20th ult. the following extraordinary circumstance occurred near Stoke upon Tern. About five o'clock in the evening, a man, decently dressed, was observed lying in the side of a lane; and being supposed to be asleep, was permitted to remain unmolested until night, when some of the neighbours drew near to wake him, but found he was totally deprived of every faculty of life, and, to all appearance, dead.—In this condition he was left on the ground a few hours longer, whilst the Coroner was consulted, and then conveyed into a neighbouring house, where he continued

without any symptoms of life till about ten o'clock at night, when his pockets were searched, and two bottles found therein, one of which contained assafoetida, and the other lavender drops, with this inscription; "If I am found on the left side, turn me on the right, give me a certain number of drops, and let me bleed."

The persons who attended then examined his arm, to see if that operation had been often repeated, and finding it very thickly covered with marks of the lancet, the drops were instantly administered, which was no sooner done than some vital warmth was perceived, with convulsions about the stomach, and in a few minutes after life was perfectly restored, the person stood up, conversed with his benefactors, and the next morning, after having been liberally supplied with cash and comfortable nourishment, by some humane and hospitable inhabitants of that place, he proceeded on his journey. He said his name was Charles Rooks, that he had been afflicted for several years with frequent returns of the like fits, and sometimes continued without relief for twelve hours together, and that he had been bled on the occasion as many times as there were nicks on his walking-stick, which amounted to 170. He had been for some time at the hospital in Exeter, which he quitted in hopes that he was completely cured, and was then returning home to his father, who, by his account, is a Land surveyor at Eaton-Boats, in Cheshire.

Leeds, Nov. 10. The celebration of the Revolution Jubilee in this town, on Tuesday and Wednesday last, was attended with every demonstration of joy and gratitude, which the importance of the glorious event it was meant to commemorate, might be expected to excite in the breasts of all descriptions of men.

The ball at our Assembly Rooms, on Tuesday evening, was very brilliant, near three hundred ladies and gentlemen being present, amongst whom were Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Scarborough, and other persons of distinction.

Edward Sanderson, Esq. the Mayor, gave a public breakfast at the Hotel on Wednesday morning, to the Corporation, and most of the gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood, who attended him in procession to church, the band of the 44th regiment of foot playing before them; the gentlemen had all orange cockades, and the streets and windows were crowded with spectators.

A most excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Haddon, from the following text,—5th of John, and part of the 14th verse.—*Behold thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee.*

about

About one hundred gentlemen afterwards dined together at the assembly rooms, John Dixon, of Gledhow, Esq; in the chair, where a sumptuous dinner was provided by Mrs. Cowling and Mr. Hick, consisting of turtle, venison, and every rarity of the season.

Hereford, Nov. 19. A most melancholy accident happened last week at Thuxton, near this city. The wife of a labourer in that parish administered to her three sons on Wednesday, a small quantity of white arsenic, which she mistook for cream of tartar. They all died in six hours, and were interred in one grave on Friday last. The eldest was thirteen years of age.

Thursday evening last the man carrying the Hereford Journal from Brecon, was attacked between Neath and Swansea, by two men with their faces blacked and in sailors' dresses, one of whom held him by the collar while the other rifled his pockets of about thirty shillings.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

Oct. 28. Yesterday seven prisoners were convicted at the Old Bailey of felonies, and three acquitted.

The same day the sessions ended, when Mr. Recorder passed judgment of death on nine capital convicts, 26 were sentenced to be transported, two to be imprisoned in Newgate, nine to be whipped, and 27 discharged by proclamation.

The session of goal delivery of Newgate for this city and for the county of Middlesex is adjourned until Wednesday the 10th of December next at the Old Bailey.

Yesterday morning 30 convicts, sentenced for transportation, were removed from Newgate to the hulks at Woolwich, where they are to remain until the ships which are to carry them over are ready to receive them.

Nov. 1. Yesterday and Thursday came on to be heard before the Lord Chancellor, at Lincoln's Inn Hall, a cause of some expectation between Christ's Hospital and the Painter's Company. The hospital demanded of the company the distribution of the interest of 55,000*l.* now in the funds, amongst poor blind persons instead of the company, being the residue of the late Mr. Stock's estate; when it was agreed that the company were entitled to the distribution of the whole interest, in a manner similar to the late Mr. Etherington's charity, paid at the hospital to poor blind persons; by which determination the company will be enabled to provide for more than twice the number paid by Mr. Etherington's charity.

Thursday, at his house in Crown-street, Westminster, Mr. Dyne, a gentleman well known in the musical world, and belong-

ing to the Queen's concert, discharged a brace of pistols, one at each side of his head, which fractured his skull in a most shocking manner. No cause whatever has been assigned for the commission of this rash act. His circumstances were affluent. He has left behind him a wife and eight children.

Last night the purser of the *Locko* Indiaman, Captain Samways, came to the India House, with the agreeable intelligence of her safe arrival off Plymouth, from China, on Thursday morning, having sailed from St. Helena the 19th of August, in company with the *Lord Walsingham*, but parted with her on the 9th of September.

Thursday night an alarming fire broke out at a cooperage in Whitecross-street, which resisted, for three hours, the united efforts of several engines. The flames were not extinguished till one o'clock, by which time the building, and a considerable quantity of barrels, staves, &c. were entirely destroyed, and six houses in a court adjoining the cooperage.

The same night a fire broke out at a sugar-baker's at Limehouse, which consumed the whole building, with a great part of the stock in trade.

Nov. 4. On Saturday came on before Lord Kenyon and a special jury, the trial of Mitton, the soldier, for assaulting and wounding Mr. Crespiigny, in the Strand, on the 23d of May last.

After the examination of the witnesses, Lord Kenyon summed up the evidence with great clearness and precision; his Lordship said, as to the first count of the indictment, the evidence was such, that if Mr. Crespiigny had died, would in law amount only to manslaughter, and not to murder, he should be acquitted of the intent to murder in this indictment, and his Lordship declared his opinion to be that way.

The jury accordingly acquitted the prisoner of the first count, and brought in their verdict guilty on the second, without going out of court.

Nov. 5. Yesterday being the centenary of the glorious Revolution, the Whig Club, which boasts of numbering among its members the lineal descendants of those illustrious houses who principally contributed to the accomplishment of the grand event, and who afterwards confirmed, and we trust eternized the benefits it conferred, by placing the crown in the House of Brunswick, properly took the lead in dedicating a festival to the memorable day. His Grace the Duke of Portland took the chair, and he was supported on the right and left by the houses of Russell and Cavendish, and a most numerous body of the most distinguished names for hereditary patriotism, interest in the

the country, and exalted endowments of mind. We know not what country, much less what club, could exhibit such a combination of fortune, character, and talent.

After a splendid dinner, the following toasts were given from the chair.

1. The glorious and immortal memory of King William the Third.

2. The Constitution, according to the principles asserted at the Revolution.

3. The Rights of the people.

4. The Friends of Freedom.

5. The cause for which Hampden bled in the field, and Sydney on the scaffold.

6. May the names of Ruffel and Cavendish be ever united in defence of the liberties of their country.

7. May it be the character of the Whig Club, never to slacken their efforts in adversity, nor to forget their principles in prosperity.

8. The House of Brunswick, and may they never forget the principles which placed their family upon the throne of Great Britain.

9. May the example of one revolution prevent the necessity of another.

Nov. 13. A very melancholy affair happened last week in the parish of Mary-le-Bonne. A man, who was a serjeant of militia, and a patrol in the parish, had used his wife so ill, that she had found it necessary to exhibit articles of the peace against him. In consequence of this he called upon her one day last week (for she had ceased to live with him) and asked her to drop the business. The wife told him that she regarded both herself and him would make her take the security of the law against ill usage from him for the future, being convinced, that if she did not, he would at last be the death of her. On this the serjeant took his leave, telling her that if she would call the next day at his lodging in Paddington-street, she would find him there a dead corpse. He then went to an apothecary's, where he bought a considerable quantity of corrosive sublimate, which he swallowed. Having done this, he next repaired to a public-house, where he called for some hot liquor, and drinking it, was soon after seized with convulsions, and expired.

Tuesday a man underwent an examination before William Addington, Esq. at the Public-office in Bow-street, being charged on oath, as well as upon his own confession, with being concerned in the wilful murder of a person, whose name at present is unknown. He was committed to prison for further examination.

Last Friday night was apprehended by the officers belonging to the Public-office, Shoreditch, a man whom they suspected of having a bag in his possession, containing a great quantity of nails, &c. done

up in papers; they secured him, and the next day on his examination, he proved to be a porter belonging to Messrs. Sparrow and Co. Ironmongers, in Smithfield, which he had plundered, by conveying them at different opportunities out of his master's warehouse; the papers having the shop mark on them, they were identified by the foreman; he was committed to Newgate for trial.

On the same night was apprehended by the officers belonging to the above office, three foot-pads, who on the Wednesday night stopped a gentleman in the Globe Fields, near Bethnal-green, and robbed him of three guineas and a half in gold, and ten shillings in silver; the gentleman making resistance, they beat him in a shocking manner with sticks till they brought him to the ground; they then cut him with knives and a chisel, and laid the fore part of his head open, and his skull bare, but upon calling out murder, they left him wallowing in his blood. On the next day information being given at the above office, three of them were apprehended at a public-house near White chapel: the gentleman identified one of them before the magistrate, and one of them was admitted an evidence for the crown, when two of them were committed to take their trials at the next sessions.

MARRIED.—At Bath, the Right Hon. Arthur, Earl of Donegal, to Mrs. Moore. At St. George's, Hanover-square, Heane Fitzgerald, Esq; of the Inner Temple, to Miss Le Keux, of Sydenham. At St. Botolph's, Aldgate, the Rev. J. Nicholson, of Sunbury, Middlesex, to Miss Boone, of Aldgate High-street. At Tunbridge, Alex. Goat, Esq; of King's-Bench Walks, London, to Miss D. Delves, daughter of Richard Delves, Esq; of Tunbridge-Wells. At Christ-Church, Surrey, the Rev. Mr. Ackland, Rector of Christ-Church, to Miss Gilbank, of York. At Brighthelmston, Robert Gardner, Esq; to Miss Bullock, daughter of Thomas Bullock, Esq; late of Boddlesden Park, Bucks. At Worcester, Dr. Ward, Physician, of Eveham, to Miss Ann Lloyd, daughter of Alderman Lloyd, of Worcester. At Fulham, John De Charme, Esq; of Hammer-smith, to Miss Harriot Gearing, daughter of Mr. Gregory Gearing, of the same place. John Beita, Esq; of Stratford, Essex, to Mrs. Mary Orches, late of Edmonton. The Rev. Walter Maurice Johnson, of Sible Hedingham, in Essex, to Miss Poley, of Melford, Suffolk. At St. Ann's, Soho, ——— Eleon, Esq; of Compton-street, to Mrs. Bracher, of Store-street, Bedford-square. At Cheshunt, the Rev. Mr. Tayler, of Ely-place, to Miss Porter, daughter of Benjamin Porter, Esq; of Theobald's Park, Hertford. At London, the Rev.

Mr.

Mr. J. Tole Rodick, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, to Miss Wilson, of Edinburgh. At Hampstead, Cornwall Smalley, Esq; of Throgmorton-street, to Miss Tierney, of Hampstead. Captain Sinauer, of the royal navy, to Miss Le Marchant, only daughter of Thomas Le Marchant, Esq; of the island of Guernsey. At Croydon, Surrey, John Haines, Esq; of Knightbridge, to Miss Hayter, only daughter of the late George Hayter, Bank Director. John Brooks, Esq; of Biddenham, Bedfordshire, to Miss Golding, of Manningtree, only daughter of the late Mr. H. Golding, of that place. At Bristol, the Rev. R. Bingham, Fellow of New College, Oxford, to Miss Lydia Ann Douglas, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Douglas, Bart. Rear Admiral of the Blue. William Gregory, Esq; his Majesty's Consul at Barcelona, to Miss Sheffield, of Catton, near Norwich. Charles Smith, of the kingdom of Ireland, Barrister at Law, to Miss Frances Dorothea Santhill, of Milbrooke, Hants. William Traywicke, Esq; of Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, to Miss Brown, of King-street, Covent-garden. At Whitley, in Surrey, the Rev. Thomas Green, Rector of Offord d'Arrey, in Huntingdonshire, to Miss Chandler eldest daughter of John Chandler, Esq; of Whitley. At St. George's, Bloomsbury, T. Allanson, Esq; of Richmond, to Miss Parry, of Bloomsbury-square. At Bishop's Stortford, Herts. — Woodroffe, Esq; of the Inner Temple, London, to Miss E. Percival, of Hockerville. At St. James's Church, John Beardmore, Esq; of Piccadilly, to Miss Bolton, of Bond-street. At Houghton le Spring, Edward Clavering, Esq; of Berrington, to Miss Smith, of Herrington, in Durham. The Hon. Thomas Pelham, to Miss Cobb, daughter of T. Cobb, Esq; of Bath. At Plymouth, J. Foot, Esq; Builder's second Assistant at Plymouth-yard, to Miss Betsey Williams, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Williams, Master Malt-maker at the same place. George Young, Esq; of Coleman-street, to Miss Elizabeth Patrick, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Patrick, of Newgate-street. At Melton-Mowbray, in Leicestershire, the Rev. Thomas Wightman, of Ledham, in that county, to Miss Poynton, sister to Mr. Poynton of Leicester. Capt. Webb, of the Coldstream regiment of Guards, to Miss Hoare at Duffield, John Broadhurst, Esq; to Miss Hadley, of this town. At Honiton, Devon, the Rev. Mr. Marker, to Miss Stokes, daughter of the late Mr. Stokes, Attorney, of Honiton. John Edington, jun. Esq; of Earl-street, to Miss Fulton, of Thames-street.

DIED. — At Mill of Lumphart, Lieut. Francis Gordon, of the 88th regiment.

At Hornsey, William Nutt, Esq. Thomas Mooceck, Esq; of Lincoln's-inn. At Upway, near Weymouth, Warren Lisle, Esq; aged 93. On board the *Vestal* frigate, in the Straights of Banca, Col. Cathcart, late Ambassador from Great Britain to the Emperor of China. At New Lodge, Hawkhurst, Kent, Mrs. Wilkins, wife of Charles Wilkins, Esq; At Gargunock, Sir James Campbell, of Ardkinglas, Bart. Governor of Surling Castle. At Devizes, — Sutton, Esq. At Chelsea, David Price, Esq; Father of the Workshipful Company of Farriers. At Paris, the Marquis de Chatelouie, a commanding officer of the French army in America. On his passage to the East Indies, Henry Davers, Esq; third son of Sir Charles Davers, Bart. At Preston, in Lancashire, Mrs. Pritchard, relict of the late Alderman Pritchard, of that borough, aged 98. At Cheam, Surrey, John Kempton, Esq; of Snow-hill. At his house in Serjeant's-inn, Fleet-street, Daniel Russell, Esq; aged 76. In Ireland, Col. Talbot, of Malandine, in that kingdom. At Norwich, the Rev. Robert Plumpton, D. D. The Rev. Tim. Perkins, A. M. Vicar of Hastingfield, Cambridgeshire. At Chelsea, David Rice, Esq; aged 84. At Compton-Chamberlain, Wiltshire, Chas. Penruddocke, Esq; one of the Representatives in Parliament for that county. The Rev. Mr. Bowles, of Idmilton, near Salisbury, aged 63. At York, the surprising gigantic girl. At Mill-Hill, near Hendon, in her 93d year, Mrs. Wentworth, relict of the late Gen. Wentworth. At his house, in Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, Nath. Mason, Esq. At Windsor, Mrs. Buckeridge, relict of H. B. Buckeridge, Esq. At Clapham, George Olive, Esq; of Suffolk-street. William Gardner, Esq; brother to commodore Gardner. Alexander Goat, Esq; who was married last week to Miss Delves. At Norwich, the Rev. Thomas Nicols, A. M. Rector of Wheatacre All Saints, in Norfolk. At Oxford, Mr. John Henderson, B. A. of Pembroke College. At Fraserfield, in Scotland, William Frazer, Esq; in his 64th year. At Bath, Robert Bird, Esq; of Barton, on the Heath, Warwickshire. At Stockport, in Cheshire, Robert Timperley, Esq; formerly a captain in the 68th regiment. John Sorocold, Esq; late of Love-lane, Eastcheap. At Colyton, in Devon, captain Batut, formerly of the 14th regiment. At Chislehurst, Kent, Peter Bart, Esq. Pittman Warren, Esq; of Warminster. On Stepney Causeway, Mrs. Deborah Godfrey. At her seat at Bradbourn-place, in Kent, Mrs. Betenson, daughter of the late Sir Edward Betenson, bart. Mrs. Ruby, of Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury. Hugh Speed, Esq; deputy register of the diocese of Chester. At Greenwich,

Greenwich, Richard Jones, Esq. At Norton, near Stockton, Jonathan Davidson, Esq. In Upper Grosvenor-street, John Rusk, Esq. Francis Leys, Esq. of Glasgow-forest, merchant, at Aberdeen. At his house in Queen Ann-street, East, Sir Edmund Affleck, bart. Rear Admiral of the Red, and representative in Parliament for the borough of Colchester. At Newington-green, Mr. Deputy Clements. At his house in Pinckney, Thomas Estcourt Creswell, Esq. Mrs Elizabeth Johnson, wife of Godchall Johnson, Esq. at his house in Bloomsbury-square. Miss Gordon, youngest daughter of Sir William Gordon, bart. of Norwich. At his house in Kew-Lane, Edward L'Epping, Esq. At the Hot-Wells, Bristol, Peter Gauffen, Esq. an eminent merchant of this city, and one of the oldest Directors of the Bank of England. In St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. John Huddleston Wynne, author of the History of Ireland, the History of America, Fables of Flowers, the Prostitute, a poem, &c. &c.

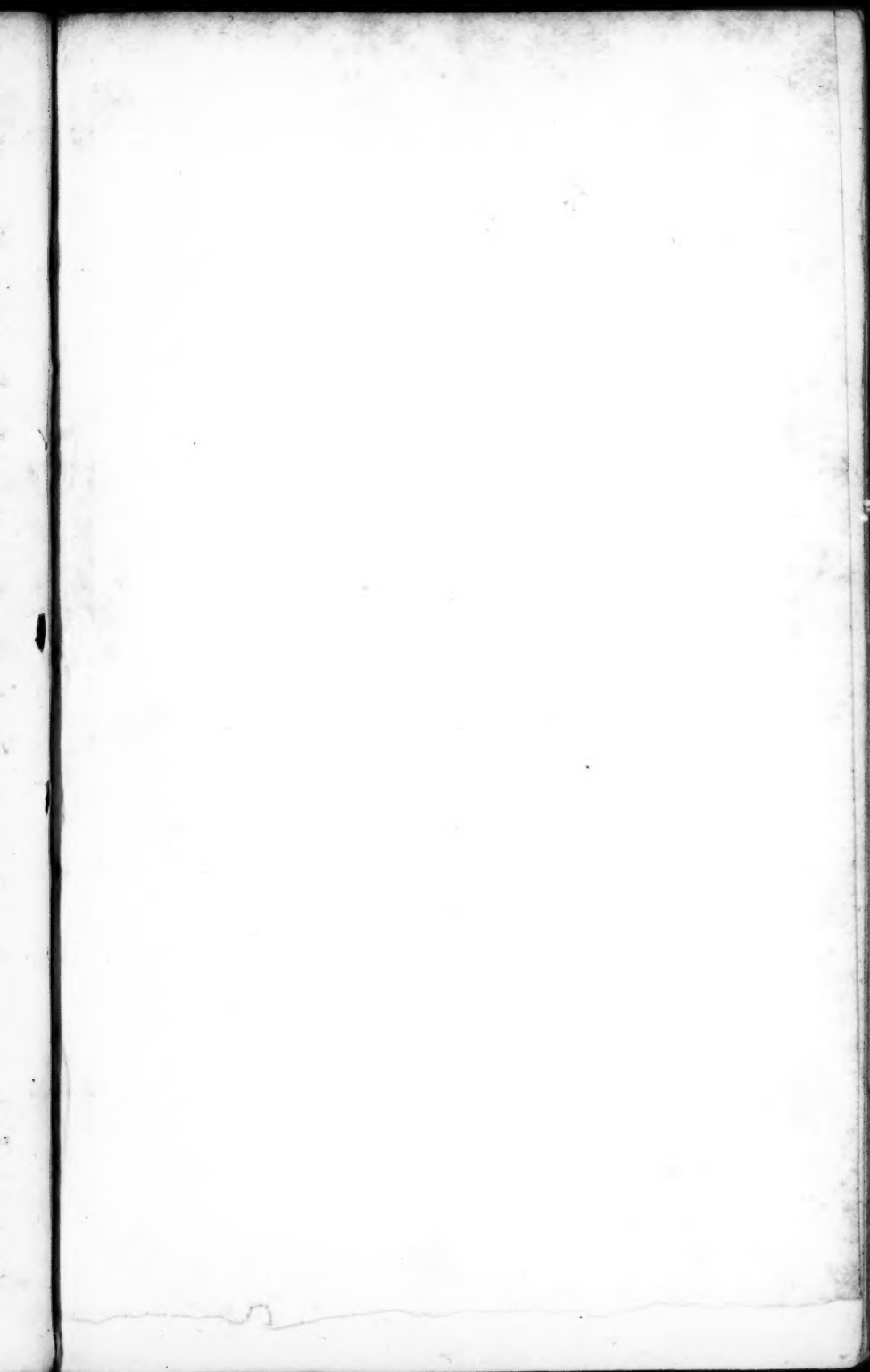
—BANKRUPTS.—Andrew Mackintosh, of High Holborn, Middlesex, linen-draper. John Sampson, of Bartholomew Close, London, jeweller. John Sadler, of Bedale, Yorkshire, flax-dresser. Thomas Arnett, of Basing-lane, London, glover. John Hayard, of Hull, Yorkshire, linen-draper. John Wright, of Duke-street, Aldgate, London, piece-broker. Joseph Rand, of Newbury, Berks, linen-draper. Christopher Barnes, of Castle-street, Leicester-fields, Middlesex, leather-seller. Vincent Eades, of Helmet-row, in the parish of St. Luke, Middlesex, bricklayer. John Wastell the Elder, and John Wastell the Younger, now or late of Wood-street, Spitalfields, Middlesex, weavers. Thomas Pelham, late of New Shoreham, Sussex; but now of Charing-cross, Middlesex, shipwright. Alexander Ross, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, dealer and chapman. William Prince, of the city of York, common brewer.—William Bedford, late of Long-acre, Middlesex, coach-maker. William Smith, of Snow's fields, in the borough of Southwark, Surrey, oil-cloth-manufacturer. Alexander Fairbairn, of Stanhope-street, Clare-market, Middlesex, taylor. William Richards, of Leather-lane, Holborn, Middlesex, baker. David Robertson, late of Leicester-square, Middlesex, vintner. Joseph Roberts, late of King-street, Bloomsbury, but now of Kentish-town, Middlesex, baker. Thomas Conway, late of Morden-park, Surrey, but now of Willoughby-lane, near Tottenham, Middlesex, merchant. James Walker, of Bristol, malt-merchant. William Webb, late of the parish of St. Philip and Jacob, (near Bridoi) Gloucestershire,

carpenter. Charles Dearden, of Manchester, Lancashire, card-maker. James Willis, of Pudding-lane, London, merchant. Thomas Phillips, late of Cork, Ireland, but now or late of Bristol, merchant and mariner. Richard Barford, of Liverpool, Lancashire, liquor-merchant. Francis Hewitt, of Watling-street, London, silkman. Thomas Reed, now or late of Cheap-side, London, hosier. Alexander M'Dougal, late of Liverpool, Lancashire, but now of Charing-cross, Middlesex, master-mariner. George Ravenhill, of St. Paul's church-yard, London, cabinet-maker. John Brookman, of Hoxton, in the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, Middlesex, victualler. Richard Oakes, of Snow-hill, London, hardwareman. Thomas Standerwich, late of Broadway, Somersetshire, now a prisoner in the King's-bench Prison. Joseph Brown, of Kingston, Surrey, corn and coal merchant. Robert Donaldson, now or late of the city of Chester, linen-draper. Thomas Walton, of Manchester, Lancashire, dealer and chapman. Thomas Walton of Manchester, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer. James Wymark, of Holt, Norfolk, haberdasher. John Dinsdale, of Akrigg, Yorkshire, grazier. Kenneth Callandar, of South Molton-street, in the parish of St. George, Hanover-square, Middlesex, apothecary. William Backler and Alexander Backler, both late of the Poultry, London, linen-draper. Walter Burrows, of Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, London, merchant. John Gleadah, of Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, Middlesex, childbed linen-maker. John Long, of Fenchurch-street, in the city of London, merchant. John Stevenson, of Old Bethlem, London, hosier. Isaac Jones, of Curtain Road, Shoreditch, Middlesex, watchmaker. Thomas Saunders and John Knight, of Lea-bridge, Middlesex, callico-printers. Jacob Hart and Henry Hart, of Goulstone-square, Whitechapel, London, diamond-cutters and jewellers. John Wyatt, of Walbroke, London, merchant. William Moores, late of the city of Worcester, glover. John Corden, of Birmingham, Warwickshire, taylor. Samuel Shaw, of the town of Haverford West, cotton manufacturer. Richard Clarke, of Love-lane, Aldermanbury, London, merchant. Francis Boobbyer, of Snow's Fields, in the parish of St. Mary, Magdalen, Bermondsey, Surrey, coal dealer. Brough Maltby and George Maltby, of the Old Jewry, London, merchants. Samuel Armtage, of Selby, Yorkshire, butcher. John Price, of Linton, Cambridgeshire, apothecary. Thomas Stamp, of Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, dealer and Chapman.

EACH

EACH DAY'S PRICE OF STOCKS IN SEPTEMBER, 1788.

Bank Stock.	3 per Ct. reduc.	3 per Ct. Confol.	Ditto 1786.	4 per Ct. Confol.	5 per Ct. Navy.	Long Ann.	Short d tto.	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	S. Sea Stock.	Old Ann.	New Ann.	3 per Ct. 1781.	New Navy.	Exch. Bills	Lottery Tickets.	Irish L. Tickets.
25 Holiday.																		
26 Sunday.																		
27	74½	75½		94½	113½	22½	13½			73 pr	8½					38 pr.	16 5 6	7 10 0
28	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½			73 pr.	74						16 5 6	7 10 0
29	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½		70½	74 pr.	74½						16 5 6	7 10 0
30	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½			74 pr.							16 5 6	7 10 0
31	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½										16 5 6	7 10 0
32	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½										16 5 6	7 10 0
33	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½		70½	75 pr.							16 5 6	7 11 0
34	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
35	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½			75 pr.								7 11 6
36	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½			75 pr.							16 5 6	7 11 6
37	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½			76 pr.							16 5 6	7 11 6
38	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
39	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
40	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
41	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
42	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
43	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
44	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
45	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
46	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
47	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
48	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
49	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
50	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
51	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
52	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
53	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
54	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
55	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
56	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
57	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
58	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
59	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
60	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
61	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
62	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
63	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
64	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
65	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
66	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
67	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
68	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
69	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
70	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
71	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
72	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
73	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
74	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
75	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
76	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
77	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
78	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
79	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
80	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
81	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
82	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
83	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
84	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
85	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
86	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
87	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
88	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
89	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
90	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
91	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
92	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
93	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
94	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
95	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
96	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
97	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
98	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
99	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											
100	74½	75½		94½	114½	22½	13½											





GEORGE LOUIS LE CLERC
COMTE DE BUFFON.

